

Minutes of the Franklin Township Board of Education

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL NEW JERSEY 08868 *Board of Education*

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING *March 15, 2012 - 7:30 p.m.*

- I. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by President Piparo at 7:42 p.m. He stated that the meeting was being taped and complied with standing policy. He stated that there would be no Executive Session and no actions taken.

Open Public Meeting Announcement was read by President Piparo:
"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 May 9, 2011.

- II. **Roll Call – Franklin Township BOE President Christopher Piparo:**

Franklin Attendance: Ewing, Shultz, Burdick, Weiss, Crielly, Masino, Piparo

Bethlehem Attendance: Connors, Solino, Logar, Sulvinski, Seibert

A quorum was announced.

- III. **Flag Salute**-Those present saluted the flag.

Mr. Piparo gave an overview of the agenda and actions to date regarding our alliance with Bethlehem Township.

Individuals of both boards gave individual introductions. It was noted by Mr. Connors that Bethlehem was a Board of the whole and at present did not have any standing subcommittees.

Both boards' presidents shared Key Goals and Challenges.

Franklin – Construction, Staff losses, Ongoing Negotiations, Administrative Turnover and stability are ongoing concerns.

Bethlehem – Settled Contract, Hired Middle School principal, are accomplishments; turnover of the Superintendent, Shared Services, declining enrollment are ongoing concerns.

General comments on similar challenges and goals followed, as well as the timing of a few similar opportunities for both boards is close.

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Mr. Masino initiated a discussion on the value of our current BA. Mr. Burdick related that Subcontracting was the proper reference language regarding proposed BA shared services. It was agreed that Both BA's have had a discussion regarding shared services (janitorial, maintenance/food services) opportunities and that Bethlehem is seeking to conduct a study to guide the overall process.

Both Boards engaged in a discussion regarding potential concerns raised that have been voiced – these included: savings may be small, a desire to keep the “small school feel”, how to divide any shared Administrative time, Special Needs challenges and School Choice issues .

The meeting was opened for Public Comment:

Vivian Paulter (Franklin) – Ms. Paulter noted, the public is most concerned about money but its kids that matter.

Frank Yasunas (Franklin) – Asked why Bethlehem population was dropping and how was their faculty taking the proposed alliance? Mr. Connors stated that it was for similar reasons – lack of resources like sports, music.

Liz Malavasi (Bethlehem) – Commented on Bethlehem having 10% less students than in the past but that they had more administration – stated she supported sharing administrative staff.

Cyrus Cama (Franklin) – Asked if there were any legal concerns with sharing special needs services. Mr. Piparo related that there are some.

Mr. Shultz left the meeting at 8:45 pm.

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Certified:

Dr. Carol A. Fredericks
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

Mr. Christopher Piparo
Board President