



**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
Board of Education**

**REGULAR MEETING
November 22, 2021**

1. **Call to Order** – Mrs. Sutton, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

1.01 Pledge of Allegiance

1.02 Open Public Meeting Announcement

In accordance with requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notice has been given of tonight’s meeting in the Hunterdon County Democrat and have been 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 and posted on the school website on January 21, 2021.

1.03 Roll Call

C. Cama, Pres.	Absent	V. Evans	Present	A. Luciano	Present
R. Falcon	Absent	K. Sutton, V. Pres.	Present	E. Tomasini	Present
J. Witkowski	Present	N. Diaz, Superintendent	Present	L. Tirone	Present

2. **Presentations**

2.01 Congratulations to Cross Country Team – Mr. Diaz

The Cross Country team was recognized for their achievement during the Fall 2021 season and certificates were presented to team members in attendance.

2.02 Curriculum Updates – Laura LoPiccolo, Curriculum Coordinator

Following the presentation, questions by board members and parents regarding the curriculum were answered by administration.

3. **Minutes**

3.01 October 18, 2021 – Regular Meeting

3.02 October 18, 2021 – Executive Session **(attachment)**

Resolved, to approve the above listed minutes.

Motion Luciano Second Witkowski By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
5	0	0	2

4. **Business Administrator Report – Lori Tirone**

4.01 Election Results

Three Year Term (2)

Erin Tomasini	554
Jim Giordano	496
Shana Frondorf	358
Cyrus Cama	356
Deanna Seiple	277

One Year Term - Write In

Amy Gilpin

We have the final results from the November 2nd election
 Congratulations to Erin Tomasini with 554 votes she will be joining us for another three years
 Congratulations to Jim Giordano with 496 votes he will also be joining us for a three-year term.
 And congratulations to Amy Gilpin who was a write-in for the one-year term.
 Thank you to all of our candidates and thank you to the community for going out and voting.

4.02 Fire Inspection

The Fire Marshall visited the school this past week for our yearly Fire Inspection. Normally we would have minor infractions to correct. This year we have received a Violation for the Windowless basement of the school not being equipped with a fire suppression system. N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.7(h). Per the code it explains the term windowless basement and sets parameters. I have a shared a copy of the violation.

Since the basement has recently been renovated, I have reached out to our Architect SSP. They have done some code research and reached out to the Fire Marshall but he isn't available until Wednesday. They may need until Monday depending on when and what the Fire Marshall says. They are very surprised that this is an issue now when it has always been this way and are questioning why it wasn't brought up during prior inspections. The Facilities and Finance Committee may discuss this further.

4.03 Snow Plowing

Unfortunately, with the estimated time of 30 weeks plus for delivery of a pickup truck we will not be able to provide snow plowing of our lots for the 2021-2022 season. I also have not been able to find a reasonably priced used vehicle. The one I had seen has been sold. We have received three quotes for snow plowing this year. A copy of a spreadsheet along with the proposals have been shared with you to assist in comparing the three. Due to the change in weather we need to decide upon a vendor to be prepared.

The Facilities and Finance Committee may discuss with the rest of the Board further.

5. **Superintendent's Report - Nicholas Diaz**

5.01 Security and Fire Drills – 2021-2022

Type of Drill	Date
Fire Drill	9/10/21
Security Drill (Evacuation)	9/20/21
Security Drill (Testing of Intercom)	10/19/21
Fire Drill	10/28/21

5.02 Report of Violence and Vandalism Incidents – January 1 – June 30, 2021

5.03 Report of HIB Incidents – January 1 – June 30, 2021

Twice per year, school districts are required to report out on incidents of Violence, Vandalism, Substance Abuse, Weapons, and alleged and confirmed incidents of Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying. There were no incidents in any of these categories during reporting period 2 which was from January 1, 2021-June 30, 2021.

5.04 Sustainable Jersey for Schools

Franklin Township School was recently recognized at the NJ School Boards Workshop 2021 for achieving Sustainable Jersey for Schools 2021 Silver certification and for being among the first schools to be recognized as a Digital Schools Star. Congratulations to Ms. Gooditis and the Sustainable NJ Team.

5.05 Consolidation/Regionalization Study

We recently had representatives from Franklin, Union, Hampton, and Bethlehem for a consolidation/ regionalization zoom call to discuss participating in a potential consolidation study with those districts. The law group that led the discussion was PBN law group. They discussed potential options in the study such as:

Option 1- A formation of a Union/Franklin PK-8 Regional

Option 2- Formation of a Union/Franklin/Hampton PK-8 Regional

Option 3- Formation of a Union/Franklin/Bethlehem PK-8 Regional

Option 4- Formation of a Union/Franklin/Bethlehem/Hampton PK-8 Regional

Tonight we have a resolution to participate in the study. But I believe that the Board would like to have further discussion on the options and share additional information. So with that I will turn it over to Mrs. Sutton for a BOE discussion.

A discussion regarding participation in the study ensued.

6. **Public Comments - Privilege of the Floor - Agenda Items Only**

There was a question from a parent regarding who teaches health and a request for a user guide from the district and what is in the curriculum now vs. next year.

7. **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence at this time.

8. **Subcommittee Discussion and Action Items**

All resolutions are upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

8.01 **Ad Hoc** (Board Goals, Supt Goals/Personnel)/**Strategic Plan** – Mr. Cama, Mrs. Luciano, Mrs. Tomasini
The committee did not meet.

8.02 **Facilities and Finance** - Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Witkowski
Resolved to approve items 8.02.1 – 8.02.4:

8.02.1 Resolution – LEAP Implementation Grant Participation

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has appropriated funds for Shared Services and School District Consolidation Study and Implementation Grants to assist local units with the study, development and implementation of new shared and regional services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) is tasked with administering these grant funds through the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP); and

WHEREAS, LEAP Implementation Grant funds have been allocated to support costs associated with school district consolidation studies; and

WHEREAS, Bethlehem Township, Franklin Township, Hampton Borough, and Union Township have determined to evaluate whether the districts may be able to attain improved educational quality and efficiencies through consolidation or regionalization; and

WHEREAS, a formal study must be undertaken to accomplish this objective; and

WHEREAS, the Union Township School District has agreed to be the lead entity in conducting this study and will submit the application for financial support for this study to DLGS on behalf of all participating units.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Franklin Township Board of Education that the Franklin Township School District does hereby join with Union Township in applying for a LEAP Implementation Grant to support undertaking a feasibility study for regionalization/consolidation.

8.02.2 Before School and After School Childcare Services Contract – YMCA

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a services contract between Franklin Township Board of the Education and YMCA effective January 3, 2022 through June 30, 2022 at no cost to the district, although requests of program space, custodial services, storage space, playground usage, timely notification of unscheduled school closings and access to the building will be granted.

8.02.3 Tuition Contract – Princeton Child Development Institute

Resolved, to approve the tuition contract for Student ID #3033027820 to attend Princeton Child Development Institute, beginning on November 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at the per diem rate of \$595.00 for a total of \$83,895.00.

8.02.4 Snow Removal

Resolved, to approve Prestige for snow removal on the parking lot and walkways for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion by: Luciano Seconded by: Evans

Discussion:

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon				X
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama				X
Totals:	5	0	0	2

8.03 **Curriculum & Education** – Mr. Falcon, Mrs. Luciano, Mrs. Tomasini

8.04 **Policy** - Mrs. Evans, Mr. Falcon, Mrs. Tomasini
The committee met and the new policies are tabled for January.

8.05 **Negotiations** - Mr. Cama, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Witkowski
The committee did not meet.

9. **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.

9.01 **Budget and Finance**

9.01.1 Secretary and Treasurer Report

Approve the Secretary and Treasurer Reports submitted for the months ending October, 2021, which agree with each other and the bank. **(attachments)**

9.01.2 Financial Reports Certification

Approve the following resolution:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(c)3, the Board Secretary certifies that no line account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10(a) and;

pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(c)4, we certify that as of October 2021 after review of the monthly reports (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate officials, to the best of our knowledge no major line account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the entire fiscal year.

9.01.3 Transfer of Funds

Approve the transfer of uncommitted funds within the 2021-2022 school year budget as per the attached list. **(attachment)**

9.01.4 Bill List

Approve the October, 2021 bill list in the amount of \$1,002,546.97. **(attachment)**

9.02 Education

9.02.1 Approve the following field trips:

Grade	Destination	Date
8	North Hunterdon High School	January 2022
5	Woodlands Wildlife Reserve	March 2022

(attachment)

9.03 Personnel

9.03.1 **Approve** the following substitute personnel applications:

- Caryn McKay
- Kyra Paillex

(attachments)

9.03.2 **Approve** the following professional day requests:

Date	Employee	Name of Professional Development Program	Registration Cost	Mileage Exp.
Jan. 26-28, 2022	Leslie McCusker	Techspo 2022	\$490.00 plus Hotel – \$95.00 per night plus Parking/Tolls	.35/mile
Jan. 26-28, 2022	Lindsay Gooditis	Techspo 2022	\$490.00 plus Hotel - \$95.00 Parking/Tolls	.35/mile
Jan. 26-28, 2022	Elisabeth Alexander	Techspo 2022	\$490.00 plus Hotel - \$95.00 Parking/Tolls	.35/mile
Jan. 13, 2022	Elisabeth Alexander	Makey Makey Certified Educator Workshop	\$150.00	N/A
Nov. 29 – Dec. 3, 2021	Kristen Andreychak	Orton-Gillingham Training	\$1,275.00	N/A
Dec. 6 – 10, 2021	Harmony Stryker	Orton-Gillingham Training	\$1,275.00	N/A
Jan. 3 – 7, 2022	Christine Torres	Orton-Gillingham Training	\$1,275.00	N/A
Jan. 10-14, 2022	Georgia Wilson	Orton-Gillingham Training	\$1,275.00	N/A
Jan. 17-21, 2022	Katherine Matassa	Orton-Gillingham Training	\$1,275.00	N/A

9.03.3 **Approve** T.J. Mani’s request to volunteer to maintain the FTS school garden during the 2021-2022 school year as part of a community service requirement for completion of his Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge.

9.03.4 **Approve** Taylor Simms as a Homework Help volunteer for the 2021-2022 school year.

9.03.5 **Approve** Julia Pereira, an Occupational Therapy student attending the University of Pittsburgh to observe speech sessions with Mrs. Kassis from December 20, 2021 – January 7, 2022.

9.04 **Facilities**

9.04.1 **Approve** the following use of facility applications:

Name of Group	Purpose	Location	Days/Dates	Time
F.T. Rec.	Rec. Basketball	Gymnasium	M,T,W,Th., Nov. 29, 2021 – Mar. 17, 2022	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
			Saturdays, Dec. 11 – Mar. 19, 2022	9:00 am – 4:00 pm (custodian required)
PTA	Class of 2022 Cheesecake Fundraiser	Library	Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021	3:15 – 6:30 p.m.
PTA	Holiday Shop	Library	Tuesday, Dec. 7 W,Th,F, Dec. 8-10	9:00 am – 3:00 pm 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

(attachments)

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Nicholas Diaz, to approve the above stated consent agenda items.

Discussion: The bills list was discussed along with a punch list for the gymnasium.

Motion by: Luciano Seconded by: Witkowski

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon				X
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama				X
Totals:	5	0	0	2

10. **Board Matters/New Business**

Mr. Diaz reported on the vacant position of Spanish Teacher. We posted for the position and have not received any applicants. He mentioned possible options such as outsourcing through ESC or virtual instruction.

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

There were no comments from the public.

12. **Personnel - All resolutions are upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.**

12.01 **Resolved**, to approve the following staff members to be Teacher Leaders for the 2021-2022 school year at a stipend of \$1,500.00 each to be paid from the ESSER II grant.

Amelia Lamonde

Alyssa Zollinger

Discussion: New program – Curriculum Leads/Data Drives/Teacher Leaders/Support of Teachers

Motion by: Witkowski

Seconded by: Evans

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon				X
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama				X
Totals:	5	0	0	2

12.02 **Resolved**, to approve Alyssa Zollinger to present professional development to teachers at our PD Academy at the hourly rate of \$30.00 not to exceed \$120.00.

Discussion: None

Motion by: Witkowski

Seconded by: Luciano

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon				X
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama				X
Totals:	5	0	0	2

13. **Executive Session – 8:06 p.m.**

13.01 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 November 22, 2021 for the purpose of discussing a legal matter, and personnel. It is expected that the results of the discussion undertaken in closed session will be made public at the time official action is taken. The board expects to reconvene into public session in approximately 30 minutes. Action may be taken.

Motion Witkowski Second Luciano By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
5	0	0	2

13.02 **Resolved, to return to Open Public Session at 8:27 pm.**

Motion Evans Second Witkowski By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
5	0	0	2

13.03 **Resolved**, to approve the following quantitative merit goals for Lindsay Gooditis, Principal.

- Mental Health: Ensure the mental health needs of our students and staff are being met.
- Empowered School Program: FTS will apply and successfully complete the Empowered School program.

Discussion: None

Motion by: Luciano

Seconded by: Witkowski

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon				X
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama				X
Totals:	5	0	0	2

14. **Other Business**

Nothing at this time.

15. **Adjournment**

15.01 **Resolved to** Adjourn from the Public Meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Motion Luciano Second Witkowski By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
5	0	0	2

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Tirone
SBA/Board Secretary