

JACKSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2016
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

A Committee of the Whole workshop meeting of the Jackson Township Board of Education was held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and was called to order by the President of the Board, Sharon Dey, at 5:30 p.m. on January 12, 2016 in the Public Meeting Room of the District Administration Building.

Present: Mr. Burnetsky (Arrived 5:35 p.m.)
Ms. Grasso (Arrived 5:33 p.m.)
Mr. Sargent
Mr. Colucci
Mr. Hanlon
Mrs. Fiero
Mrs. Dey

Also present: Dr. S. Genco, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. D. Baginski, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. N. Pormilli, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. M. Richardson, Business Administrator; Dr. R. Cerco, Director of Special Services; Mr. N. Montenegro, Board Attorney, staff members, township residents and newspaper representatives.

The Certification of the meeting according to the tenets of the Open Public Meeting Law, the Chair made the following statement: "This meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and has been advertised in the newspaper as an Official Meeting."

On a motion by Mrs. Fiero, seconded by Mr. Hanlon, the Board of Education approved the agenda as submitted by the Superintendent of Schools.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mr. Sargent
Mr. Colucci
Mr. Hanlon
Mrs. Fiero
Mrs. Dey

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Superintendent Dr. Stephen Genco – Discussion Items
 - 2016-2017 Budget Introduction/Process/Overview

Dr. Genco stated he will give a brief overview of the budget process. All of the schools have submitted what he terms their start numbers; we break it out per pupil and have begun to review them. Tonight we will talk about the timelines in which the budgets will be presented. When you're looking at an organization of this size, we'll be looking at the numbers and fine tuning what we're after and where our goals are. We always balance the needs of the district with the taxpayers and concerns of the community. He explained while the community no longer votes on the budget; we still like to do the presentations; this gives the Board a lot of insight on where we want to go and gives the community the opportunity to ask questions before the tentative budget is done as well as the final budget that's presented at the public hearing. Our individual budget presentations will begin February 9, 2016 at the Committee of the Whole meeting that will be held in this building at 5:30. The presentations will consist of special education, curriculum, technology and guidance. During the special education presentation and because the state cited over 100 large districts, there will be more focus on our handicapped classes and include regular education students in our pre-school program; we will be discussing that in detail. We do have a plan with the state and it is still on-going.

Dr. Genco continued we will be talking about our curriculum adoptions and tying that to technology and some of the things we are looking to possibly do. Mr. Holtz will be presenting the guidance budget.

Dr. Genco continued on February 16, which is typically when the Governor's budget address is given noting in past years, this has been put off but this is the week we expect it. Dr. Genco stated as everyone knows what is going on over the national landscape, he isn't certain whether the Governor is going to be ready to present his budget address or even be in the state of New Jersey at that time. With the regular Board meeting on February 16, we will not be doing any mini budget presentations but we will be talking about where we are at. Most likely at that point we will have the ad-hoc finance committee that he will be talking to Mrs. Dey about and then we will be in a much better place than we are now looking at a tentative budget.

Dr. Genco continued in March we will be presenting the co-curricular, athletics, facilities, and transportation budgets. With committee reports, we will also be talking about the buildings and grounds and we're starting to look at the long range facilities plan and look at things we need to address. The tentative budget will be introduced March 15th noting that budget may either be over or under cap but we have another month to tweak that. We are mandated to have a tentative budget but it doesn't mean that's going to be the final budget and it is usually not the final budget.

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Mrs. Dey asked is the guidance budget going to be presented on February 9th noting she sees it posted for February 8th also.

Dr. Genco responded no just February 9th; disregard the 8th; guidance will be done with curriculum and instruction.

Dr. Genco continued on April 19th, we will have our Committee of the Whole meeting in which we will still be discussing the final budget on our Board presentation noting our budget hearing is April 26th. By that time everything will be worked out and everyone will be on the same page.

Mr. Sargent asked is the final budget timeline definitely that date.

Dr. Genco responded yes, it has to be on April 26th because we have to submit the budget to the county at that point.

Dr. Genco asked does anyone have questions on any of the dates or preliminary plans citing we touch on big pieces and departments. He will discuss the school budgets in the finance committee meetings as they are tied to how many students are in the buildings to determine the essentials each building will need. This is a people business and schools are run by personnel so 80% of the budget is personnel.

There were no further questions presented.

Dr. Genco stated our next presentation will be given by Officer Pejoski, Lieutenant Convery and Officer Menafrá. He advised we discussed this training and it does not replace what we do; it just provides the next level of what we can do in a drill. Some states have taken it on whole heartedly and some at a slower pace. He spoke with the Board last year about the process of piloting this program and wants the officers to talk a little bit about it tonight noting Goetz is the school that's piloting the program right now and Mrs. Byrnes was trained for it last year.

- ALICE Training – Lieutenant Convery & SRO Menafrá

Officer Pejoski, Lieutenant Convery and Officer Menafrá gave a narrative and power-point presentation on ALICE training to the Board.

Dr. Genco expressed his views on this training and clarified ALICE is an approach to specific shooter drills. We have all our drills in place and this doesn't change the fact we may lock down. This is something to give our teachers and staff to think about because if we don't talk about these things then we just become victims and you're limiting the things you can possibly do.

Ms. Grasso commented as a teacher herself, she finds this empowering.

Mrs. Byrnes, Acting Goetz Principal, shared her views on the training she had citing all the teachers were excited and appreciative of the program coming in.

Mrs. Fiero stated she feels it's very valuable and should be shared not just by teachers but by all staff citing anyone who is not trained is a weak link for that building.

Dr. Genco assured Mrs. Fiero the training would be for all staff.

Officer Pejoski continued the presentation.

Mrs. Fiero stated she knows that the Jackson Police Department has participated in active shooter drills in some of the buildings and assumes they are going to continue those drills because they know the layouts of all the buildings, is that correct.

Lieutenant Convery responded yes and they will tour all of the buildings to familiarize themselves with the layouts.

Dr. Genco stated they did an active shooter drill at McAuliffe Middle School last month.

Lieutenant Convery responded yes we did.

Mrs. Dey stated she received many e-mails from residents and she responded that the Board was considering this program and they were excited to know that. Mrs. Dey spoke about teaching her children stranger danger noting this is what parents teach their kids and feels this program is very important. She shared her own experience of being in one of the buildings during a lock down a few years ago.

Officer Pejoski continued the presentation.

Mr. Sargent asked what happens when the panic button is activated.

Lieutenant Convery responded all emergency units are immediately dispatched. We also have the capabilities to pull emergency units from other towns if needed.

No further questions were presented and the officers concluded the presentation.

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Dr. Genco and the Board thanked all of them.

Dr. Genco stated Mrs. Pormilli will present a brief presentation on the official results of the anti-bullying bill of rights 2014-2015 district and school grade report.

- Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights (ABR) 2014-2015 Official District and School Grade Report – Assistant Superintendent Nicole Pormilli

Mrs. Pormilli gave a narrative and power-point presentation on the anti-bullying bill of rights 2014-2015 official district and school grade report and advised the results are posted on the district website.

Dr. Genco asked the Board if they have any questions for Mrs. Pormilli.

There were no questions presented.

Dr. Genco thanked Mrs. Pormilli for her presentation.

Superintendent Advisory on PARCC Testing Results

Dr. Genco stated Mr. Baginski and Mrs. Pormilli will present the results of the PARCC district scores. As you know the PARCC test was given last year for the first time. He cautioned remember that these are first year norm tests and there was an opt-out movement that happened that we saw more at the secondary level citing the scores show that as well with the amount of students that were tested. Mr. Baginski and Mrs. Pormilli will talk about some of the other variables such as students completing a 50 minute test in 5 minutes. Dr. Genco explained by statute we are required to report these scores within 60 days of receiving them and today we're reporting those scores.

- PARCC District Scores – Assistant Superintendents Nicole Pormilli and Dan Baginski

Mrs. Pormilli and Mr. Baginski gave a narrative and power-point presentation on the results of the PARCC district scores to the Board.

Superintendent Advisory on PARCC Student Participation

Dr. Genco stated he would like to point out while we are viewing this, that we only tested half the students because we weren't set up for block and we didn't test the fall and the other piece of this is last year they gave the PBA (performance based assessment) and the final year the PBA was basically given 6 or 7 weeks into the class. Our numbers were skewed on a number of fronts citing this is not an excuse, the district was just not set up for an additional block and hopes this clarifies the results noting this is not a typical test.

Mrs. Pormilli continued the presentation.

Mrs. Dey asked why didn't we test in the fall.

Dr. Genco explained the state only had the test ready for the spring. The state actually came back to us saying we have an option; we could either waive those students or test those students who finished the class in January and May so it didn't make sense to test those students.

Mrs. Pormilli concluded her segment of the presentation.

Mr. Baginski began his segment of the PARCC presentation.

Ms. Grasso asked do you think people are acclimating to PARCC better than before.

Mr. Baginski responded it's really more of we're not fighting a public relations battle now especially with the fall semester because not many school districts were on the same schedule we're on during the fall block. We did a lot of outreach; we have a resource page on the website that we made available to parents in full disclosure for them to understand the importance of it.

Mr. Baginski continued the presentation.

Mr. Hanlon asked did you meet with parent groups in January and do we have any feedback from them.

Mr. Baginski responded yes we have and they didn't have many questions about it; we met with them at Crawford-Rodriguez school last week and we will be going to meet with them at Johnson, Elms and Rosenauer schools tomorrow; we will be meeting with all 10 schools. The parent community is supportive; they understand we are a school district that is responsive to our students needs. The documents that have come out of PARCC are very detailed and provide a lot of information.

Dr. Genco thanked Mrs. Pormilli and Mr. Baginski for their presentation.

Superintendent / Business Administrator Public Service Announcement Presentation

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Dr. Genco advised the Board this portion of the meeting is not on tonight's agenda but wants Ms. Richardson to share with the Board some background and context on a public service announcement (PSA) that was talked about last year with bus safety that our JTV students put together.

Ms. Richardson stated back in November 2014, we wrote a letter to the Director of Highway & Traffic Safety and our Legislators saying we want to prepare a public service announcement on school bus safety and we will have our students from our JTV class produce a video. Ms. Richardson advised the Board we have two versions to show you and asked the Board to select the video they want to send out as the public service announcement at the conclusion of the presentation. She further advised we will send the video to Governor Christie, Senator Thompson and Assemblymen Clifton and Dancer noting we did hear back from Assemblyman Dancer who is interested in seeing the video.

Ms. Richardson stated the students and staff at JTV made the video and they did a great job. She stated they feel the first video is the most impactful that will get attention and sends the message do not pass a school bus when the red lights are flashing.

Dr. Genco advised the Board we want you to see what we're putting out there before we send it out.

Mrs. Dey shared when she is out in the mornings, people are in too much of a rush and she sees this all the time so this is very important to get out there.

The Board all agreed to send video #1 as the public service announcement.

Dr. Genco concluded the Superintendent's report noting it was very lengthy but we had a lot to do.

Mrs. Dey stated we will review and present questions by each section of next week's agenda.

Discussion

a. January 19, 2016 Agenda

Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Finance

Mrs. Dey asked the Board if they have any questions on Finance.

Mrs. Fiero asked Ms. Richardson about motion #4; is this the number we agreed to in the past.

Ms. Richardson responded yes.

Mrs. Fiero asked does this keep us on target to keep our fleet of buses running and transporting students.

Ms. Richardson responded yes, this keeps our buses on the road for 19 years.

Mrs. Dey asked Ms. Richardson to put a report together on the fleet of buses for the new Board members so they are familiar with them and how we have their road time scheduled. Mrs. Dey shared what happened years ago when the district was suddenly faced with purchasing several buses at one time. She commented with the size of our town, the buses generally end up gaining a lot of mileage before they reach 20 years of age.

Mrs. Fiero commented to have to purchase several buses at the same time is especially difficult when there are budget constraints and we don't ever want that to happen again so we have the fleet operating on a rotation basis according to mileage and/or years that was put into place by our Business Administrator, Ms. Richardson.

Mrs. Dey clarified the several buses that had to be purchased back then was under the responsibility of the former Business Administrator noting this will not happen again.

Mrs. Dey asked about motion #5, isn't this lower than it was last year.

Ms. Richardson explained we went out to bid and Johnson Controls won the bid for a 5 year contract. We post it on the agenda each year to show the current contract amount. This is year 3 of 5 and yes it is less than it was last year which was \$131,000.00 noting this is why we proposed a 5 year contract.

Mr. Hanlon commented that's good, he thought it was over \$100,000.00 each year.

Mrs. Dey asked the Board if they have any further questions on Finance.

There were no further questions/comments presented on Finance.

Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Facilities

Mrs. Dey asked the Board if they have any questions on Facilities.

There were no questions/comments presented on Facilities.

Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Programs

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Mrs. Dey asked the Board if they have any questions on Programs.

Dr. Genco stated he wants to note that motion #4 is the report for the Board to accept what Mrs. Pormilli just presented.

Mrs. Dey shared she and Mrs. Fiero were on the committee pertaining to motion #5; this is one of the best committees she's ever served on for 1½ years. The committee consisted of administrators, educators, board of education members, students and members of the community. It was an amazing collaboration of putting our mission statement together and from there, our goals and objectives. The final product was an amazing collaborative effort; it speaks volumes about the community we have here in Jackson. Dr. Genco was a great leader there.

Mrs. Fiero seconded Mrs. Deys' comments citing she has been around a long time and was involved on many committees and as a parent, this one was definitely a much better experience, it was amazing!

Dr. Genco asked the Board since we have teachers of the year in February; do we want to recognize the strategic planning committee the same time as teachers of the year or wait until March.

Mrs. Fiero responded in her opinion she thinks we should do it the same time so the teachers can see everything we're doing.

Dr. Genco advised the Board he wants to invite the committee back to not only take part again but to give them a certificate for all their time and work done on our future direction, mission statement, and goals for the next 5 years.

Mrs. Dey asked the Board if they have any further questions on Programs

There were no further questions/comments presented on Programs.

Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Students

Mrs. Dey asked the Board if they have any questions on Students.

There were no questions/comments presented on Students.

Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Personnel

Mrs. Dey asked the Board if they have any questions on Personnel.

Superintendent Advisory on Personnel

Dr. Genco advised the new Board members, in matters of personnel, he can answer general questions in public and invited them to contact his office at any time with specific questions or they can address them in executive session.

There were no questions/comments presented on Personnel.

Superintendent: Proposed District Calendar - 2016-2017 SY

Dr. Genco requested the Board's input on next year's calendar; it is very similar to the VoTech and Toms River calendar that they will be approving this month as well. He explained because of the Presidential election, it's going to be a slightly different calendar than we've had and it shows schools are closed a full week in November citing concern of the large number of voters that will be going in and out of the school buildings that day.

Mrs. Dey explained we want people to know that the safety of all students and staff was and is a major concern of the Board over school board elections in past years. It has been our concern that people are going in and out of the schools all day long and for the safety of our students, we will make the decision to close schools at least for the Presidential election for now.

Dr. Genco advised the Board he has the Vocational School calendar that was approved and they are going to be closed that same week. With the teachers' convention that same week, it isn't educationally sound to have students come in on Monday and then again on Wednesday.

Mrs. Fiero shared her concerns about a bad winter and inquired how snow days will be made up.

Dr. Genco responded we may have to extend the school year or look at spring break.

Mr. Hanlon suggested we should have that pronouncement up front of what days will be taken away.

Dr. Genco shared he spoke with Mrs. Mould, JEA President, about transition day possibly becoming the second or third day as a makeup day so she is aware of that.

Mrs. Dey asked Dr. Genco if we can post a note stating the reason why we are closing that week in November.

Dr. Genco responded he doesn't feel it's necessary considering Toms River and VoTech are doing the very same thing.

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Mrs. Dey commented safety supersedes everything.

Mr. Hanlon commented there is no educational value to coming in on Monday, be out on Tuesday and then come in Wednesday and be out again until the following Monday.

Mrs. Dey commented there is also a big traffic issue.

Mrs. Fiero commented there will be too many people going in and out of our buildings.

Mr. Hanlon responded that's what concerns him most.

Mrs. Dey moved to Board Committee Reports:

Standing Committee Reports

- **State and County School Boards Representative – Barbara Fiero**
Mrs. Fiero stated this coming Saturday is a Legislative/County/Board of Directors for School Boards session and is not certain yet if she can attend. The purpose of it is they're trying to set their legislative agenda for the coming year. Mrs. Fiero shared there are login issues with the School Boards website and she isn't able to access the information right now.

- **Parent Group Liaison – Barbara Fiero**
Next President's Council Meeting – Monday, February 1, 2016

- **Special Education – Sharon Dey**
Mrs. Dey stated she attended the Special Education Advisory Council meeting last night citing Ms. Grasso also attended. This meeting had one of the largest turnouts she has ever seen. It was very informative for special education students going out of school into the world. This was an interesting group of parents who have to deal with this and you can see a lot of concern in parents faces. Having resources there helped ease parents fears; they were provided a lot of information.

Mrs. Dey stated the next SEAC meeting is March 14, 2016; the child study team members and teachers will be attending that meeting. We will be discussing the transition from elementary to middle school to high school. This too has also been a large concern with parents. We're going to be sitting in round table sessions for each category with teachers and staff members.

Ms. Grasso commented she was surprised to see that many people at the meeting.

Mrs. Dey responded yes; the media center was packed and it was one of the largest turnouts.

- **Scholarship – Mike Hanlon**
Mr. Hanlon stated we also had our meeting last night and we will be having another meeting here in this building on February 1st to send out the letters to all of the sponsors with a due date of April 15th.

Mrs. Dey shared with the new Board members; if you like, we split the cost of placing the Board's ad in the Scholarship Journal.

Dr. Genco commented it is a great night.

Mr. Hanlon responded it is and it is a long night too.

Mrs. Fiero added but it is a "good" long night.

Dr. Genco responded it is and it shows the great support the community has for the schools.

Mr. Hanlon commented the staff that runs the program is very good at making sure it runs smoothly and that all the scholarship information gets out to the students for them to review. We probably have more scholarship funding from the community than any district in the county noting we're one of the largest districts in the state.

- **Buildings & Grounds – Mrs. Fiero, Mr. Dey & Mr. Colucci**
Mrs. Fiero stated we had a meeting over some of the things going forward and what we're going to be looking at and balancing it all with available funds.

Dr. Genco stated we are starting to take a good look at the long range facilities plan that is coming to fruition at this point. We're looking at some of the things we have to prioritize to get done versus things we want to get done and will know what possibly can be done as we go along building the budget and will continue to do this.

Mrs. Fiero thanked Mr. Ostroff for the capital projects report that was done; it was very helpful and informative.

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Mrs. Dey commented it's nice to see the positive things going on.

Mr. Ostroff thanked Dr. Genco for the positive feedback.

Mr. Hanlon commented the report was so comprehensive.

Mrs. Fiero commented it is nice to go back and look at it to see how things are moving along.

Mrs. Dey commented it's so nice to see all the things being done considering the budget cuts we've endured noting this is one of the first areas we've had to take away from. It's nice to get everything back on track.

- **Budget/Finance – Mr. Hanlon, Mr. Colucci & TBD**

Mrs. Dey advised we're going to be creating a ad-hoc committee. Mr. Hanlon, Mr. Colucci and Mrs. Fiero volunteered to be on that committee. Mrs. Dey stated she will be the "floater" if someone isn't able to attend a meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

On a motion by Mrs. Fiero seconded by Mr. Hanlon, the public forum was opened by acclamation.

Carol Mould, President of the Jackson Education Association, welcomed the new Board members. She wished everyone a happy new year. She congratulated Mrs. Dey and Mrs. Fiero on their new positions on the Board.

Mrs. Mould stated with ALICE, PARCC and the Public Service Announcements, she shares the same horror in her mind and thanked the Board for making it easier for her members to digest.

There being no further response, on a motion by Mrs. Fiero, seconded by Mr. Hanlon, the public forum was closed by acclamation.

New Business

Mrs. Dey welcomed the new Board members to their first Committee of the Whole meeting advising them this is the workshop meeting.

Dr. Genco stated we try and cover as many topics as we can at this meeting; if there is something any of you want to discuss, just let us know.

Mr. Hanlon commented having this meeting is a big help noting Mr. Sargent has been here before so he knows. Getting topics out there and having presentations where everyone is here to see and hear the same information is the reason for these meetings. It's a nice change from having separate committees.

Mrs. Dey commented it's nice that all the Board members are getting the information at the same time. She explained but we do need committees for other certain things.

Mrs. Fiero commented it also gives you another way of looking at things from a different standpoint and collaborate with different dialogue.

There being no further comments, on a motion by Mr. Hanlon, seconded by Mrs. Fiero, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Richardson
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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