

JACKSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 19, 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 April 19, 2016 in the Conference Room of the Administration Building.

Present: Mr. Burnetsky
Ms. Grasso
Mr. Colucci
Mr. Hanlon
Mrs. Fiero
Mrs. Dey

Absent: Mr. Sargent

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

After the salute to the flag and 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."

Board President, Mrs. Dey, asked everyone for a moment of silence on the passing of Superintendent Dr. Steven Mayer of the Robbinsville School District.

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. Burnetsky
Ms. Grasso
Mr. Colucci
Mr. Hanlon
Mrs. Fiero
Mrs. Dey

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. 2015 District Violence and Vandalism/HIB report for the period of July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 – Anti-Bullying Coordinator Cliff Menafra

Dr. Genco stated he will begin his report by introducing Cliff Menafra, the district's HIB Coordinator, to begin his presentation to the Board on the bi-annual violence & vandalism and HIB report.

Board Member Inquiries/Comments on the 2015 District Violence and Vandalism/HIB report

Mr. Burnetsky asked how do our statistics compare with other districts.

Mr. Menafra responded we can look at another district the same size we are but the question is do they handle cases the same way we do. Our investigations may be somewhat higher than what other districts do. Other school districts may not approach situations the same way we do and therefore our statistics may be a little higher with the way we do investigations.

Mr. Burnetsky asked are these substance abuse statistics just within the schools.

Dr. Genco explained these are students who come under reasonable suspicion of being under the influence noting we had the Prosecutor come to Liberty last year with dogs. We are part of that program this year too and if the Prosecutors office contacts us at a moment's notice, he will give them access to any school they wish.

Mr. Burnetsky asked what is being done where heroin is concerned; what are we doing education-wise for the kids.

Dr. Genco responded we run programs all the time and we also have SAC's (student assistant counselors) at both middle schools and both high schools. They work by individual case basis and groups. When students are identified as users or abusers, the SAC's get very involved. Monmouth and Ocean counties are two of the highest rates in the state with heroin use and abuse noting the statistics are staggering when it comes to heroin; 93% of users become addicts and 78-80% become

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deceased from use. Just trying it one time, you have a great chance of ending up dead. Education is the way to send this message but unfortunately some students make poor choices.

Mr. Burnetsky commented kids aren't realizing this is something that can kill them.

Mrs. Dey commented this issue was being discussed on the radio today and she would like to see the district do more to discourage it noting the Jackson Police Department just did something on this.

Ms. Grasso asked how well was that attended.

Mrs. Dey responded it was very well attended but we still need to get the message out more. She spoke about Narcan being put in place about a year or so ago. According to police statistics, by them using Narcan on overdose victims, it saved over 11,000 lives.

Mr. Menafra commented and that's not accounting for all police departments.

Mrs. Dey stated as Dr. Genco said, the statistics are high, we have problems and would like to do more about this. We just had a young resident pass away the other day. We had a mother speak about it at the last meeting we had. Mrs. Dey suggested maybe having someone who has been through this talk to the kids; maybe we can have someone speak who is in recovery. It's very scary that heroin is readily available and cheaper than other narcotics.

Ms. Grasso shared a student passed away from heroin in another district last week who she personally taught; it is an epidemic.

Dr. Genco shared when reading the newspaper, almost every day you see a news article on heroin abuse, Narcan and overdoses. He read that use of heroin has gone up 200-300% in the last year. We as administration, do not have our heads in the sand, we are as proactive as we can be.

Mr. Colucci asked do we use Narcan here like we use Epipen.

Dr. Genco responded no, the police are contacted; they are trained to administer Narcan.

Mr. Colucci stated so the school nurses do not have Narcan on hand.

Dr. Genco responded no.

Mr. Hanlon commented there is the availability of Narcan training so parents can use Narcan if need be.

Mrs. Fiero shared the county is putting out a list of dates for Narcan training throughout Ocean County and believes there will be one in Bayville coming up.

Mrs. Dey stated she wants to be as proactive as possible.

Dr. Genco stated we always meet with the SAC's, (student assistance counselors), and this is always a large part of that discussion.

There were no further inquiries or comments by the Board.

Dr. Genco thanked Mr. Menafra for his presentation.

Dr. Genco announced Mr. Baginski will begin his presentation on the high school grading policy noting last year we made changes on how students will be graded and that was basically a pilot year in which you have an opportunity to review and possibly tweak a little bit. Mr. Baginski will talk about the committee meetings that were conducted all year and about the changes; we are going to make some slight recommendation changes.

b. High School Grading Policy – Assistant Superintendent Dan Baginski

Mr. Baginski presented the high school grading policy and committee recommendations to the Board.

Board Member Comments/Inquiries on the High School Grading Policy

Mr. Hanlon, referring to students being exempt from a final exam, stated the worst grade they will get is a 95 correct, expressing concern about college requirements.

Mr. Colucci stated this too was also his concern and asked students that earn a 93 for three marking periods and then are exempt from the final exam; what would be their final grade average.

Mr. Baginski responded 94.

Ms. Grasso stated she thinks it's wonderful students have the option of being exempt.

Mr. Colucci clarified so by being exempt they will receive the same grade as they did for the 3 marking periods plus the weighted 16%.

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Mr. Baginski responded yes noting we ran the numbers on what that would look like using the new numbers and there wasn't an overwhelming amount of students.

Mrs. Fiero stated but that could change.

Mr. Burnetsky stated some students could end up getting a 98, 99 or 100 on their final exam.

Mrs. Fiero responded then she would like to see an average of at least 97 if that's where they were.

Mr. Baginski asked the Board if they have any further questions.

There were no further inquiries or comments presented on the high school grading policy.

Superintendent Comments on High School Grading Policy & Committee Recommendations

Dr. Genco stated the committee has certainly done a great job as has Mr. Baginski did leading this committee. It's a lot of work trying to get a lot of feedback from a lot of people. He believes where we are at is very fair and that we want to put our students in the best light. One of the unintended consequences in weighting exams of the 25% is basically what another marking period is so the worst grade a student's going to see is an exam grade. If you're weighting it higher than everybody else in the state, you're basically painting our children at a disadvantage when they're going to be compared to other students in the state when it comes to college acceptances etc. The committee, in looking at that and looking at best practices, it would be hard pressed for you to find schools that don't have exemptions and he thinks 93 is more the norm than the exception. The committee did a great job and certainly did a lot of work and thanked Mr. Baginski and the committee.

Mrs. Dey and Mrs. Fiero requested their thanks and appreciation be expressed to everyone on the committee for the Board.

Dr. Genco turned the meeting over to Ms. Richardson to talk about the budget.

a. 2016-2017 Tentative Budget Dr. Genco

Ms. Richardson stated she attended a county meeting last week to go over the budget and one of the things that came up was the SEMI funds. She advised the Board there is an agenda item that says we have to increase the 2015-2016 budget by \$41,000.00. We had received a notification from the Department of Education several months ago that advised school districts they have extra funds to be distributed and our district is going to receive \$41,000.00. It has to be placed in the 2015-2016 budget so this increases the 21-page document. The other item brought up was our capital reserve and explained that \$2,000.00 is already within our normal interest number where we always show it but they want it to show in capital reserve.

Mrs. Dey clarified so we have the \$2,000.00 in an interest account but they want us to show it in our capital reserve interest.

Ms. Richardson and Dr. Genco responded yes; Ms. Richardson explained she has always shown the interest at the end of the year so now we will take it out of that interest account and place it in capital reserve interest.

Ms. Richardson continued they also discussed wanting more specifics on each tuition line within the budget document; here at Jackson, we always show the schools' students attend, whether they have an aide or paraprofessional and the tuition cost.

Mrs. Dey asked what other specifics do they want included.

Ms. Richardson responded whether students require a nurse, a shared paraprofessional or personal paraprofessional noting these details were still in the budget; just not broken out specifically. We get a new county BA generally every two years and they sometimes differ from the other on how they want things done.

Dr. Genco explained the prior county BA was fine with our budget document; this new county BA wants it done in more detail.

Ms. Richardson stated she will advise the Board if any other changes come about but regardless, it will not change the bottom line of the categories or the tax levy.

Dr. Genco stated that is the point he wanted Ms. Richardson to share where the bottom line and tax levy is concerned; they remain unchanged and the interest earned is in an interest account, just not in the interest account the new county BA wanted it in.

Ms. Richardson explained the amount of the 2016-2017 budget did actually decrease because we had to increase the 2015-2016 by the \$41,000.00. This is on the agenda for next week for Board acceptance.

Mr. Hanlon stated it was said at prior meetings, things could change right up to the very end.

Dr. Genco stated he had taken feedback from everybody and they're all in agreement with exactly where we are at.

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There were no further inquiries or comments on the 2016-2017 tentative budget.

Superintendent / Board Discussion - Goals & Objectives

Dr. Genco advised the Board last year New Jersey School Boards Association had changed that the Board no longer has to evaluate themselves; they're just evaluating the Superintendent. He believes with a new Board, they have the option of evaluating themselves as a Board and suggests doing that.

Mrs. Fiero stated it isn't that time consuming; it's thought provoking and is encouraged within our school district.

Mrs. Dey stated she feels it's important to self-assess.

Dr. Genco agreed; self assessment is a good thing.

Mrs. Fiero stated she would like to clarify for the new Board members that while we know what Dr. Genco is talking about, they aren't aware of what's ahead that awaits us. Mrs. Fiero explained every year the Board has their Goals Retreat session and the Superintendent's evaluation is one of our jobs as a Board to do and there's also a Board self assessment component. You would rate yourself as a Board member and the Board as a whole and have comments noting School Boards tabulates all of it. The Board will not know who the ratings and comments pertain to but School Boards will but amongst ourselves we will not.

Mrs. Dey stated but we do have discussion at the retreat and the Board does share their thoughts noting we can only make ourselves better if we discuss the issues.

Dr. Genco stated as far as our district goals and objectives, he began to go through them with the Board President the other day. In a quick review here and they will all be on-line, the planning objective we've done as a two year goal and we have accomplished that at this point. From a facilities standpoint, we've basically achieved and exceeded all the facilities objectives that we put in. Everything we've had control over in the finance portion, we've hit and exceeded; part of this was the Solar PPA that have run into snags but have very little to do with us. When you look at the curriculum and the student achievement piece, all the indicators will be there and some of it you've already seen at the Board meetings but we're not in a bad place whatsoever noting there were some great things. Regarding the home school connection, he hasn't had the opportunity to review it with Mrs. Erwin yet as she has been very busy with School Wires as our platform. We are doing all the things we said we're going to do and School Wires is a work in progress at this point. We are in a very good place with our district goals and we've touched on everything within our power. We will be evaluating full day kindergarten but have to wait until they're tested at the end of the year before we can do a complete evaluation and wants to look at real data before he gives that presentation. You're seeing the high school grading changes coming to fruition and we're evaluating the middle schools next year. We'll be putting out the new elementary standards based report card next year but we're going to take our time and pilot it so parents are aware of what's coming; they've read information of what it actually means; this is doing it the right way for the right reasons. Overall we are in a very good place.

Mrs. Licitra advised we will begin assessing full day kindergarten most likely the end of May.

Dr. Genco stated he wants to be able to quantify the assessments, not just talk about the experience of it.

Mr. Hanlon stated he wants to point out that although it's not a goal, this is something the Superintendent instituted that really changed the district, referring to Dr. Genco getting the two high school student councils together and the two middle school councils together.

Dr. Genco advised we have another student council luncheon coming up in May.

Mr. Hanlon commented there's always going to be competition but now it's competition with more respect.

Mrs. Dey stated and it's healthy competition.

Dr. Genco shared the kids really like the exchanges and doing things together. Relay for Life is a combined high school, middle school project that Liberty will be hosting sometime mid May. These are the types of things that make a community. We have two great schools but it's one great community.

Dr. Genco thanked Mr. Hanlon.

Mrs. Dey moved to discussion on the April 26, 2016 agenda noting we will deliberate section by section.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Discussion

a. April 26, 2016 Agenda

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Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Finance

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

Mr. Hanlon inquired about finance motion #6, on the solar power purchase agreement, what is the impact of that.

Ms. Richardson responded the kilowatts increased on the project once it was finally complete. We actually received more than what we bid for. The contract must reflect exactly what happens noting she sent the contract to the Board attorney for review. This change impacts the amount paid to the architect because payment to him is based on the number of kilowatts.

Mr. Hanlon thanked Ms. Richardson.

Mrs. Dey asked what is the feedback on Source4Teachers.

Dr. Genco responded that is on-going and will continue to be a work in progress. He shared back when he was Assistant Superintendent here, he experienced the same issues that Source is running; however, they are aware they have to do a better job of making sure our rate of coverage is higher noting they were doing a good job up until February citing February was a bad month. He spoke with other districts and issues are very similar. He advised Toms River had contacted him and they were experiencing the same thing. Dr. Genco stated March and April were better noting with a district our size, we have over one hundred subs a day and sometimes coverage isn't always at 95%. We've done some things in our district to help shield us from that; we do have building based subs and are utilizing them appropriately when coverage does not come in.

Ms. Grasso asked what about teacher coverage.

Dr. Genco responded as a last resort, we do have teacher coverage here as well. Ultimately we are covering everything, it's just the whole point of getting building based subs in at a more economical means noting we always have the option of pulling teachers for coverage.

Mrs. Dey asked is this the fourth or fifth year we've used Source4Teachers.

Dr. Genco responded fourth year.

Mrs. Dey stated but we still have the same issues, same concerns.

Dr. Genco responded it isn't fixed.

Mrs. Dey asked are there any other companies out there.

Dr. Genco responded there is one other company that is relatively new and is only in their second year of existence. The founders were from Source4Teachers and outsourced from it noting this might be an option, however, he feels Source4Teachers is our best option. In lieu of moving again, Ms. Richardson has been looking into some different things.

Mrs. Dey stated she would like to know the cost fee.

Ms. Richardson explained we are always looking at different options every year; we look at everything cost-wise to save money but once we're no longer saving money, then we do it in-house. She shared she meets with Source4Teachers representatives several times a year.

Mrs. Dey stated but it's the same consistent problems every year and knows everyone on our end is doing their job. The kids even talk about the substitutes they have in their buildings.

Dr. Genco stated back when we did our own sub group, we had similar issues then too and they were our issues.

Mrs. Dey commented not to this magnitude.

Dr. Genco stated it depends on the year.

Ms. Grasso commented using this teacher coverage is the most sound way to go, it just costs us money.

Mr. Hanlon inquired about finance motion #16, are we going to be recognizing those students.

Mrs. Dey responded we will be recognizing those students.

Mrs. Fiero stated that was for the \$3,500.00 awarded to the Digital Media Program by New Jersey Natural Gas.

Mrs. Erwin responded those students will be present at the next business meeting in May.

Mr. Colucci inquired about finance motions #7, #8 and #9.

Ms. Richardson responded #7 is the Middlesex Regional Education Services Commission; that is actually special education.

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Dr. Cerco explained they will provide different services, evaluations and home instruction for students in the district throughout the year.

Ms. Richardson explained they do multiple services throughout the state under one contract and we get to take advantage of that.

Mr. Colucci asked is there any downside to this.

Dr. Cerco responded no it actually opens up more services we can use.

Ms. Richardson explained they go out to bid to get the best price for services.

Dr. Cerco added the price is better and the services will certainly help.

Mrs. Dey asked Ms. Richardson about finance motions #17 and #18.

Ms. Richardson explained we came under scrutiny for purchasing something for St. Aloysius with their non-public funds noting Middlesex Regional also runs that for us. We are on top of St. Aloysius about every single purchase they request.

Mrs. Dey asked do we have a checks and balances in place for this.

Ms. Richardson responded we do and we've also made sure Middlesex Regional knows how important this is in what they can and cannot purchase.

Ms. Grasso asked for clarification.

Ms. Richardson explained there are laws that allow monies to go through the public school system to the non-public schools within their district. They actually stipulate the kinds of items permitted to purchase with those funds. She explained the issue they were just talking about came under Title I which is more broad as to what you can purchase. Back then, they purchased something that wasn't necessarily definable to a Title I child which is sometimes difficult to do.

There were no further inquiries or comments presented on Finance.

Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Facilities

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

Ms. Grasso asked about the new computer room at Holman, is that going to compromise how many kids can use the computers.

Mr. Ostroff responded not at all.

Dr. Genco stated it is similar to what Johnson already has.

Ms. Richardson advised it is only going to be one classroom at Rosenauer.

There were no further inquiries or comments presented on Facilities.

Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Programs

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

There were no inquiries or comments presented on Programs.

Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Students

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

Mr. Hanlon inquired on how many students we have going out of district.

Dr. Cerco responded 80 students.

Mrs. Dey asked does that include the 3 that's on this agenda.

Dr. Cerco responded yes and there are also students coming back.

Ms. Grasso commented she thinks it's so great that students have a wide variety of places they get to go to.

There were no further inquiries or comments presented on Students.

Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Personnel

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

There were no inquiries or comments presented on Personnel.

Mrs. Dey moved to Board Committee Reports:

Standing Committee Reports

- **State and County School Boards Representative – Barbara Fiero**
Mrs. Fiero stated we are meeting in May which is our last meeting of the year.
 - **Parent Group Liaison – Barbara Fiero**
Mrs. Fiero stated it is going to be interesting next year because there is a lot of turnover. The meetings are very supportive and there is great dialogue. At the last meeting they discussed doing a relay on a district-wide basis. There was discussion back and forth about different gift auctions. They are an interesting group and it's cultured for getting information and ideas back to the buildings. Mrs. Fiero expressed her thanks for being the liaison to the parent group.
 - **Special Education – Sharon Dey**
Mrs. Dey stated the next meeting is May 9th, 6:30 in the Liberty meeting room.
 - **Scholarship – Mike Hanlon**
Mr. Hanlon stated we had our meeting last night; we will be extending the collection time for scholarship funds as we are about \$2,000.00 short over previous years and are reaching out again; right now we are at approximately \$12,000.00. He looks forward to scholarship night citing it's a long night but a great night.
- Dr. Genco stated it truly is a great night.*
- **Buildings & Grounds – Mrs. Fiero, Mr. Dey & Mr. Colucci**
Mrs. Dey advised the committee did not meet.
 - **Budget/Finance – Mr. Hanlon, Mr. Colucci & TBD**
Mrs. Dey advised this committee met many times crafting the budget which we are going to vote on next week, the final budget.

Mrs. Dey stated we reached out to Ms. Richardson to set up an ad-hoc transportation committee. Mr. Sargent expressed interest to be on this committee to Mrs. Dey. Mr. Colucci and Ms. Grasso also volunteered to be on this committee. Mrs. Dey advised she and/or Mrs. Fiero will act as a back-up for this committee.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

Mr. Ostroff, Director of Buildings & Grounds, stated he isn't a member of the community and is a staff member here and wants to say what a phenomenal job the PTO's and PTN's do in this district. He commented about the funds raised for the Holman School playground and how terrific that is; they really do so much for the kids and would like to acknowledge them for all the efforts and hard work they do.

Mrs. Dey stated we do have a great community and have a lot to be proud of.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

FINANCE:

1. On a motion by Ms. Grasso, seconded by Mr. Hanlon, the Board of Education authorized the Board Secretary to go out to bid for Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mr. Burnetsky
Ms. Grasso
Mr. Colucci
Mr. Hanlon
Mrs. Fiero
Mrs. Dey

MOTION CARRIED

There being no further comments, on a motion by Mrs. Fiero, seconded by Mr. Hanlon, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Richardson
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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