

JACKSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2017  
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, Barbara Fiero, at 5:30 p.m. on January 10, 2017 in the Conference Room of the Administration Building.

Present: Mr. Colucci  
Mr. Walsh  
Mr. Burnetsky  
Ms. Grasso (Arrived 5:38 p.m.)  
Mr. Hanlon  
Mrs. Fiero

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."

Mrs. Fiero asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for the passing of a high school student last week.

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

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mr. Colucci  
Mr. Walsh  
Mr. Burnetsky  
Mr. Hanlon  
Mrs. Fiero

**MOTION CARRIED**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 2017-2018 Budget Introduction/Process Overview

Dr. Genco gave a brief budget introduction of the process and overview. The budget timeline is set up even though we don't go out for vote any longer. We still like to have the public come to the meetings to see what we are budgeting and the reasons we are budgeting noting as a public entity, they should see what we are doing and why we are doing it. These meetings provide a multitude of opportunities to ask questions before and after a budget is created. We have two timelines that we will talk about shortly for the tentative budget and for the final budget. On the budget timeline calendar; we will begin the process on February 14<sup>th</sup>; at the Committee of the Whole meeting and will be presenting curriculum, special education, technology and guidance. That is also the week of the Governor's budget address. Dr. Genco asked Ms. Richardson typically how many days after the Governor's address do we see the numbers come in.

Ms. Richardson responded we should have them by the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Genco continued February 21<sup>st</sup> is our regular business meeting. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be doing presentations for co-curricular, athletics, guidance, facilities and transportation; then we do strike a tentative budget and basically what that means is we are at or below cap. We still have a tremendous amount of work to do where we can manipulate and tweak whatever changes are needed up until we have our budget hearing on April 25<sup>th</sup> so we do have plenty of time to work the tentative budget at which point we are still rolling over personnel and anything else. We are a people driven business, personnel is a little greater than 80% of our budget. When we start talking about the other intangible items, you will have seen all the presentations for them. At the same time, the Board has always worked with an ad-hoc budget finance committee; we will be putting committees together today and there will be a lot of discussion at that point. All the administrators will be coming forward to speak to the Board about where they want to go, what they need and what they would like to do.

Dr. Genco asked the Board if they have any questions at this point.

The Board responded we will have questions after hearing the presentations.

Dr. Genco continued we do have things to tackle and hopefully we will remain flat noting we've had 5 to 6 years of budgets with the 2% cap which makes it very difficult as things become tighter and

Committee of the Whole Meeting  
January 10, 2017  
District Administration Building

tighter. This is what we're working against but we'll wait and see what the Governor's address tells us. If anyone has seen the State of the State Address today, a lot of it wasn't directed at budget and education; it was about drug addiction and things of that nature, however, in the beginning of that address, Governor Christie did allude to the fact that he doesn't feel we're out of place where the pension reform isn't something that has to be looked at. The Governor also talked about continuing to look at taxes. He did talk about education for a very short period of time and most of that conversation was geared towards charter schools. Hopefully that charter school money is still the same pot of money as public school money so we have to pay attention to what is going on.

Dr. Genco concluded his Superintendent's report for the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mrs. Fiero moved to discussion on the January 17, 2017 agenda noting the Board will deliberate it section by section.

### **Discussion**

#### **a. January 17, 2017 Agenda**

#### **Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Finance**

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

Dr. Genco referenced finance motion #7 and requested Mr. Ostroff, Director of Buildings and Grounds, to speak to the Board about it.

Mr. Ostroff stated there is information in the report he submitted to the Board regarding the new lead testing regulations. They are cumbersome, to say the least, and it is a huge undertaking to fulfill the requirements of the statute. We did go out for proposals for the lead testing and the sampling plan. There is a proposal on the agenda for the lowest cost who is qualified to conduct the testing. This covers 450 samples but he estimates we are going to be a little higher than that so there is a per sample fee in the proposal. The proposal includes all 12 buildings where we have to sample and we also have to include 50 samples in case it goes to the 15 parts per billion limit; at that point it will have to be retested and there is a fee for that. The proposal includes all of the flush samples to be collected when they do the regular sampling.

Dr. Genco stated we have done lead testing in this district for years unlike many other districts.

Mr. Ostroff responded we actually went above and beyond what most districts were doing last June. We sampled all of our buildings doing 5 random samples; we only had 2 come back at a detectable level but nothing came back at an action level; the action level is 15 parts per billion and above. On one of them we were at 2 parts per billion so we are nowhere near any action levels in any of the buildings and that was taking random samples. The new statute now is every potable discharge point has to be sampled; that means water fountains, kitchens, faculty rooms, ice machines and portable classrooms. Mr. Ostroff advised we are probably going to have closer to 550 samples this year.

Dr. Genco asked did everybody bid on 450.

Mr. Ostroff responded yes everyone bid on 450 and also a fee for additional samples beyond that. The lowest of the proposals was a state contract vendor and the other one was the Educational Services Commission. The proposals under the co-ops were almost twice as much.

Mr. Colucci asked what would the cost be if it reaches the maximum level.

Mr. Ostroff responded that's going to be difficult to determine because it's going to be a matter of whether it's a simple fix and to retest again which we can; even after you toss the flush sample, you can test again. If it still comes back, then it's going to be a matter of whether it's a fixture issue or will it be a matter of placing a filter on that particular discharge point; will it be a plumbing issue or an infrastructure issue.

Mr. Colucci asked if any of these are shown to be an issue, would you be forced to retest again.

Mr. Ostroff responded only if it is not at the acceptable level citing he is comfortable saying he doesn't believe we are going to have any issues here and if we did, it wouldn't go beyond the possibility of putting a filter on something.

Mr. Walsh asked what is the timeframe for testing.

Mr. Ostroff responded we must have everything complete and submitted to the State before July 17, 2017. He will work out the details with our service provider; during the winter we will start the process and it will certainly be a process noting it will take 60 days to complete.

Mr. Walsh asked are you required to do this annually.

Mr. Ostroff responded we are only required to do it every 5 years, however, our 2 buildings that have well water, we're already required to sample the wells every year but the other tests will be good for 5 years.

Committee of the Whole Meeting  
January 10, 2017  
District Administration Building

Mrs. Fiero commented at one point there was talk about funds being available for this but that never came about.

Dr. Genco responded if funds become available, it is a small amount of money that would be divided among districts.

Mr. Ostroff stated at the seminar he attended in South Jersey, they actually had that discussion with representatives that were there from the office of finance and facilities. Of that money, here is what they decided to do; they will not reimburse anyone until every district has submitted their plan; then they will determine how many pennies on the dollar we get noting it's not enough money.

Dr. Genco stated he was actually impressed by the price that came in noting when he saw the original prices; they were at least twice as much.

Mr. Ostroff stated this is a major money maker for all of these firms especially because of the way the statute is written. The partners for the proposal you have in front of you is someone he has worked with for many many years; they are part of this group that didn't jump on the co-op bandwagon; their rates are reasonable as they already have their customer base and are not going to start price gouging.

Mr. Walsh asked do other facilities such as transportation have to be tested too.

Mr. Ostroff responded any place where there is a staff member or a student at a discharge point so that also means the field house and transportation garages too.

Mr. Colucci asked is this a result of what happened in Flint, Michigan.

Mr. Ostroff responded no; it is because of what happened in the schools up in Newark, New Jersey.

Mrs. Fiero thanked Mr. Ostroff.

Mrs. Fiero asked Ms. Richardson to go over motion #8.

Ms. Richardson explained the courtyard project at Crawford-Rodriguez is in our budget for this year. We put out requests for quotes; we received one from DiCara-Rubino and one from Somjen. Somjen came in at a lower price and they also submitted a proposal for architect of record. The reason to move on this project is because it is budgeted for this year.

Mr. Hanlon inquired about motion #9, it says amending the budget with that contract; how is that changing.

Ms. Richardson explained it is only going to change by the amount; they were paying their paraprofessionals minimum wage and the minimum wage went up as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. The rates are listed within the contract so we have to amend it to reflect the new increase.

Mr. Hanlon thanked Ms. Richardson.

Mr. Burnetsky inquired about motion #4, uniforms for the facilities and transportation departments, how did that come about.

Ms. Richardson responded it's going to be a shirt; we've been discussing it for years. Those staff members requested this so they are appropriately identifiable when they have to enter the buildings so people immediately know who they are. They will also have the same ID's that we have.

Mr. Burnetsky asked how many shirts will they receive.

Ms. Richardson responded each of them will receive 5 shirts.

Dr. Genco explained each crew member typically goes between three schools.

Ms. Grasso asked are they able to scan their ID at every entrance.

Ms. Richardson explained they have access to all schools at certain times; 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon and there are times they have to switch schools so they do have full access.

Mr. Walsh inquired about motion #5; are we only approving year 4 of the 5 year contract; do we have to approve each year of the contract.

Ms. Richardson explained we did this for the price of it all; we don't have to do this each year, but we went out to bid for a 5 year contract and wants to keep the Board informed each year of the 5 year contract. She explained the pricing came in so low that the Board agreed to the 5 year term noting this is a good savings for the district.

Dr. Genco commented even with the number you're looking at; it is still a big savings because you're talking about Johnson Controls.

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

There were no further inquiries or comments presented on Finance.

Committee of the Whole Meeting  
January 10, 2017  
District Administration Building

**Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Facilities**

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

There were no inquiries or comments presented on Facilities.

**Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Programs**

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

Mr. Hanlon asked Dr. Cerco for the total of out-of-district placement students.

Dr. Cerco responded we have 80.

Mr. Burnetsky asked has that number dropped over recent years.

Dr. Genco responded yes, we used to have over 100 students out of district.

Mr. Hanlon inquired about motions #8, 10, 11 and 12, is there a reason why, with the people we already have in place, a need for that service.

Dr. Cerco explained these are the recommendations of the child study team and the attorney; the costs are basically the same.

Mr. Hanlon asked are these psychiatrists being requested for a specialized purpose.

Dr. Cerco responded yes at the request of the child study team and the parents.

Mr. Hanlon asked is this the same for medical.

Mr. Walsh also asked what do they specialize in.

Dr. Cerco explained they work with individualized needs of some pre-school students and some work with high school students; to give an example, there are kids who are fire-starters and others with issues that go above the general type and was determined as a result of child study team psychiatric evaluations.

Ms. Grasso inquired about motion #9, tell us what TalkPath Live is.

Dr. Cerco explained this is an agency that has a live person on the other end of the computer that can provide home instruction. We need home instructors to work with certain students.

Ms. Grasso asked is this primarily for speech therapy.

Dr. Cerco responded for speech therapy and counseling and we also have other areas where they can do that.

Dr. Genco commented this is interesting and it is a new program; you're looking at a screen with a live person; it's not like a tutorial or programming.

Dr. Cerco explained we do have options where students can go on there at any time with their parents to do tutorials and standard therapy sessions.

Ms. Grasso asked this is not offered to the average student, correct.

Dr. Cerco responded no it is not; we look to our home instruction staff and then to the agencies; this agency is used for speech therapy and counseling noting they are all state certified counselors.

Mrs. Fiero inquired about motion #13 and motion #16; confirming that both high schools are going to the same event, why do they differ in cost per student.

Dr. Genco explained one high school did more fund raising than the other and was able to cover most of the trip.

Mrs. Fiero stated this may be something we should discuss for next year with the parent groups.

Dr. Genco stated the cost factor is nearly the same but the source of the funding is distributed differently.

Mr. Walsh stated the registration fee should be the same.

Mrs. Fiero read aloud a portion of motion #13 and motion #16 that pertain to the cost to the Board for both high schools.

Committee of the Whole Meeting  
January 10, 2017  
District Administration Building

Mr. Baginski explained DECA is offsetting the funding for transportation and is also supplementing the hotel/meal cost with what Memorial students paid for themselves noting Memorial did some aggressive fund-raising.

Mr. Burnetsky inquired about motion #17 and motion #18, what is the difference between the Liberty and Memorial hockey teams.

Dr. Genco responded if you're looking at dollar figures; you're looking at cost per student. Price-wise Liberty was very similar last year but this year Liberty has only one team, they don't have a JV and a Varsity and Jackson Memorial still has both teams. This fluctuates because it is broken out per athlete.

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

There were no further inquiries or comments presented on Students.

#### **Board Member Inquiries/Comments on Personnel**

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

Mr. Colucci inquired about motion #11, SAT prep.

Dr. Genco responded we're going to run that again this year but is something we're going to be phasing out because of the way the SAT test has been re-written noting it is more PARCC like. The best way to prep for an SAT is what we're doing in the classroom already; we didn't just want to stop the SAT prep because it was very popular last year but after this year, we will phase it out.

Mrs. Fiero commented she remembers when we had too many sign up for the prep and we had to expand and expand.

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

There were no further inquiries or comments presented on Personnel.

#### **Board President - Appointment of Board Committees**

Mrs. Fiero stated with this being a new year, we will appoint new committees. It has been tradition that new Board members in their first year, serve on the finance committee. Mr. Colucci, Ms. Grasso, Mr. Hanlon and Mr. Burnetsky, as the alternate, served last year.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Fiero asked Mr. Burnetsky if he would like to step up from alternate status.

Mr. Burnetsky agreed to serve on the finance committee.

Ms. Grasso agreed to remain on the finance committee.

Mr. Walsh agreed to serve on the finance committee.

Mr. Hanlon agreed to serve as the alternate for the finance committee.

#### **STATE AND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS REPRESENTATIVE**

Mrs. Fiero agreed to continue to represent Jackson.

#### **NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Fiero advised the negotiations committees will remain unchanged as we are currently in negotiations.

#### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Fiero stated we have an opening on the buildings and grounds committee.

Mr. Walsh agreed to serve on the buildings and grounds committee.

Mr. Hanlon agreed to serve on the buildings and grounds committee.

Mr. Colucci agreed to serve on the buildings and grounds committee.

Mrs. Fiero agreed to serve as the alternate for the buildings and grounds committee.

#### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hanlon agreed to continue as liaison for the scholarship committee.

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATION LIAISON**

Committee of the Whole Meeting  
January 10, 2017  
District Administration Building

Mrs. Fiero requested a volunteer as new liaison for the special education advisory committee noting she will continue to be the liaison if there are no volunteers.

Ms. Grasso agreed to be the new liaison for the special education advisory committee.

#### **PARENT GROUP LIAISON**

Mrs. Fiero requested a volunteer as new liaison for the parent group noting she will continue to be the liaison if there are no volunteers.

Mr. Burnetsky agreed to be the new liaison for the parent group.

#### **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Fiero advised the transportation committee consists of Mr. Colucci, Ms. Grasso and Mr. Sargent who she believes will want to remain on this committee. This committee does not meet very often and is an ad-hoc committee so we can leave this committee as it stands for now. If we need to make any adjustments, we will do so as needed.

#### **Standing Committee Reports**

- **State and County School Boards Representative – Barbara Fiero**  
*None to Report.*
- **Parent Group Liaison – John Burnetsky**  
*The next President's Council Meeting is Monday, February 6, 2017*
- **Special Education Liaison – Vicki Grasso**  
*The next SEAC Meeting is Monday, March 13, 2017*
- **Scholarship – Michael Hanlon**  
*Mr. Hanlon stated there isn't anything to report until next week.*
- **Buildings & Grounds – Thomas Colucci, Michael Hanlon & Michael Walsh**  
*Mrs. Fiero stated we just had our Buildings & Grounds meeting prior to this meeting. John Blair was there with us who is our Energy Education Specialist for the district. Mr. Blair has been going around to the schools and making himself very visible. He gives out what he terms nastygrams that say close down computers and shut out all lights, etc. The other note he leaves is thank you for your support. Mr. Blair attends faculty meetings to speak to staff. He is there when school is open and after school; he's doing a lot of great things. He is tracking double-billing and found a slight error with meter reading twice. They were reading the sign outside and not the building meter reader. We also met with someone who may have a proposal going forward as far as revenue for the district. Enernoc is the company that when an energy emergency occurs, which is generally July and August between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., and if you're willing to power back 70% of your power; the district will receive revenue because it's put to the grid. Wall Township is doing it right now and they received \$24,000.00 in revenue last year. There is a test that is done every year and you get paid for your test. The one energy emergency in the last 3-4 years was up there so you get paid for the energy emergency and you get paid for the test. We're also going to see if there are other companies out there doing it noting the consortium is the way to do it so we end up with higher revenue because the companies were offering a 60%-40% split but is negotiable. Dr. Genco also did the process when he was Superintendent in South Plainfield.*

*Dr. Genco responded yes and we utilized the consortium in Middlesex County but cannot recall what the percentage was noting he wasn't aware Enernoc existed. All the schools in Middlesex County; Old Bridge being one of them, jumped on board citing this was a no-brainer. Now other companies are doing it but as Mrs. Fiero said, they're doing 60%-40% and the consortium is doing 90%-10% but this is only if there is availability; they cannot sign everyone up.*

*Mrs. Fiero explained the young man that spoke to us about this advised that if our district is going to participate, there is a time constraint and we would have to decide by the end of February if we want to go with them because they fill up the slots and then we would have to wait; but, there was nothing said going forward that if it turns out the consortium is better and we're on a waiting list, we can't do this for a year because it is a yearly contract and then flip to the consortium.*

#### **Board Member Inquiry - SEAC Meeting**

Ms. Grasso inquired about the start time of the SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) meeting.

Dr. Cerco responded the committee meetings usually start at 6:00 p.m but the one we are having on March 13<sup>th</sup> will start at 5:00 p.m.

Committee of the Whole Meeting  
January 10, 2017  
District Administration Building

- **Budget/Finance – John Burnetsky, Vicki Grasso & Michael Walsh**  
*None to Report.*

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

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

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

### **Superintendent Comment**

Dr. Genco expressed his appreciation to the Board for taking action this evening on the personnel motion as they need to submit their resignation.

### **RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION**

#### **PERSONNEL**

1. On a motion by Mr. Hanlon, seconded by Mr. Burnetsky, the Board of Education approved the employment of the following personnel:
  - a. Kathryn Murray, Special Education Teacher/Johnson (11-212-100-101-09), newly created position, effective February 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017, salary \$51,282.00 pro-rated, as per BA Step 3 of the 2016-2017 JEA contract; pending fingerprint approval.

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

### **MOTION CARRIED**

There being no further comments, on a motion by Mr. Burnetsky, seconded by Mr. Colucci, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Richardson  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary