

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
HELD ON APRIL 27, 2015
HAMILTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Mays Landing, New Jersey
William Davies Middle School Library**

The Regular Meeting of the Hamilton Township Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Michael H. Duberson Memorial Library at the Davies Middle School by Mr. Eric Aiken, Board President.

**Call
To
Order**

Mr. Aiken led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Pledge of
Allegiance**

ANNUAL NOTICE OF MEETING

This meeting is being held in compliance with the Sunshine Law, having been advertised in the Press of Atlantic City and the Atlantic County Record and a notice posted with the Township Clerk on the Bulletin Board at the following locations: Mizpah Post Office, Mays Landing Post Office, Atlantic County Library, as well as all the schools of the district. A mechanical device is being used to record this meeting and this meeting is also being video-taped.

There are two opportunities to address the members of the Board. The Board values and welcomes comments and opinions from residents as long as remarks are not personal or discourteous. The public comment portion of the meeting allows the Board to listen to community members and to hear their opinions on school policy and operations.

The first public portion is reserved for persons wishing to speak about agenda items only. The second opportunity, following the action items, is when residents may address the Board on any school-related issue. Each speaker is asked to limit their comments to three minutes and you are not permitted to yield your time to another. The public comments portion of the meeting, during both sessions, will not exceed 30 minutes. Upon being recognized, persons wishing to speak should stand and identify themselves by name and address.

ROLL CALL

The following members answered roll call: Mrs. Stephanie Buchanan, Mr. Greg Cassidy, Mr. Greg Ciambone, Mrs. Amelia Francis, Mr. Derek Haye, Mrs. Barbara Kupp, Mr. John Sacchinelli, and Mr. Eric Aiken. Quorum present.

**Roll
Call**

Absent: Mrs. Kim Melton

V. Moment of silence for private reflection

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Sacchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, to enter into executive session:

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mr. Haye, Mrs. Kupp, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Mr. Aiken. (8-0-0)

Resolved that pursuant to Sections 7 and 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the public shall be excluded from that portion of the meeting involving discussion of:

- Matters rendered confidential in nature – HIB Reports
- Pending Litigation
- H.T.E.A. Negotiations

Further resolved that the discussion of such subject matter in executive session can be disclosed to the public when formal action is taken on such subject matter or at any other appropriate time.

Further resolved the Board may take action on items discussed in executive session.

Further resolved that the Board will be in executive session for approximately 45 minutes.

The Board entered into Executive session at 7:05 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 7:40 p.m.

XI. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Kupp asked if it was necessary to document in the minutes all that is said at each of the meetings.

Mr. Smith stated that the minutes were updated at the request of a Board member. He did state that he agreed that the minutes should be more of a summary.

Mr. Aiken asked if other Board members would be able to ask why another member wants to make changes. Mr. Smith responded that it would be okay.

1. Motion by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the regular and executive session minutes of the meeting of March 23, 2015, as per attachment Minutes-1.

Roll Call Vote: Five in favor: Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Mr. Aiken.
Abstained: Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, and Mr. Haye. (5-0-3)

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Cappelluti congratulated the Wm. Davies School for being selected as a recipient of the Dept. of Education Green Ribbon Award.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Amy Hassa does not feel the district is following the best practices regarding the HIB issues. She does not feel HIB should be ignored. Bullying occurs at all schools and good schools are more proactive in handling the problem. She does not feel this district has the sense of urgency when young children are being bullied.

Mr. Aiken responded that the District is working in conjunction with the PTA to conduct a workshop on HIB and Steered Straight to address these issues.

Mrs. Capone feels that a lot of things are piling up in the township. Casinos are closing and people are losing jobs. She feels this is a time to do everything in our power to ease the burden on the community. She does not feel it is fair to raise taxes when over 50% of the students are on free and reduced lunch. She feels this budget is piling on additional strain for families. She would like to see the Superintendent provide another budget which demonstrates equal sacrifice.

Denise Brasher asked if the Board has looked at Administrative costs instead of cutting teachers. She noted various supervisors in the district and would like to combine some of these positions before eliminating teaching positions.

Shannon Branca had a question regarding the stipends which are being reallocated. She also noticed that four BSI teachers are being reduced to part time. These teachers will most likely look for full time employment elsewhere. She feels the students are always being hurt with budget cuts.

Lisa Grunwald has resided in the township since 1993. Her children have excelled in the District. Her daughter has learned a lot from the music program and Mr. Rothkopf. A lot of students will not be able to continue with music lessons if the program is cut. She asked that the Board reconsider cutting this position from the budget.

Emily Lynd, Student Council President noted what an excellent job Mr. Rothkopf does for the music program. Cutting his position would definitely cause the program to suffer. She asked that the Board please reconsider their decision.

Abigail Luderitz read a statement from another student. She feels the music department always suffers with budget cuts. She asked that the position of the music teacher not be cut from the budget.

Grant Johnson, a Davies School student also asked the Board to reconsider their decision.

Tracy Bustard, a parent provided information supporting the fact that music is an important part of the day for many students. She noted that music has recently been noted as a specific core academic subject section in the Every Child Achieves Act of 2015 along with the other core academic subjects for No Child Left Behind. She feels cutting the position of the music teacher will have a severe impact on low income students.

Rachel Bustard spoke on behalf of the music program. She feels there are two types of people; those who make music and those who listen to music. She encouraged the Board to reconsider cutting this program from the budget.

Lisa Johnson is a resident and former employee of the district. She noted how dedicated the music teacher is. He has given the students excellent opportunities in the music field. She would like the Board to reconsider their cuts in the budget.

Mike Makara moved into the district three years ago. He feels that, if he is going to pay higher taxes, he does not want to see the music program reduced. He would like the Board to put their heads together and find the money to save this program.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Kupp noted that she had the opportunity to attend the Hess concert last week. She did want to note that all teachers involved do an excellent job. It was a testament to the music program.

Mr. Sacchinelli stated that the children who spoke and performed this evening did an excellent job.

Mr. Aiken also attended the Hess concert and commended the staff and students for an excellent job. He congratulated the Wm. Davies School on being a recipient of the Green Ribbon Award.

He also noted that it is a very difficult job to make decisions regarding the budget. The Board looks at everything and tries to make the best decisions for the District.

SUPERINTENDENT/STAFF REPORTS

(A) Information Items

1. Dates to Remember

- a. April 27, 2015 – Policy Committee Meeting – Board Office – 6:00 p.m.
- b. April 27, 2015 – Board of Education Meeting and Public Hearing on the Budget – Davies School – 7:00 p.m.
- c. May 7, 2015 – Finance Committee Meeting – Board Office –

- 9:00 p.m.
- d. May 11, 2015 – Curriculum Committee Meeting – Davies School – 6:00 p.m.
 - f. May 11, 2015 – Board of Education Meeting – Davies School – 7:00 p.m.
 - g. May 12, 2015 – Personnel Committee Meeting – Board Office – 4:15 p.m.
 - h. May 25, 2015 – Memorial Day – School Closed
 - i. May 26, 2015 – Policy Committee Meeting – Davies School – 6:00 p.m.
 - j. May 26, 2015 – Board of Education Meeting – Davies School – 7:00 p.m.
- (B) Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Incident Log, as per attachment IX-B.
- (C) 2015-2016 Budget Presentation given by:
Dr. Michelle M. Cappelluti, Superintendent
Daniel Smith, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Aiken had questions regarding the 2% tax increase. He also recalled that the Board was initially looking at \$459,000 in banked cap and this figure has been reduced to \$230,000. The Board has tough decisions to make. State aid has been reduced and ratables are going down. This has been one of the toughest budgets to work on.

Mrs. Francis had a question regarding the tenured gym teacher being replaced by a non-tenured teacher. Mr. Smith explained.

Mrs. Francis also had a question as to which stipends were being cut.

Mr. Cassidy asked how many positions would be saved if the District decided to go to full banked cap. Mr. Smith noted that it would be the decision of the full Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Peggy Capone wanted to know if any cuts were made in any of the administrative positions. She noted that a new administrative position was being approved tonight.

Dr. Cappelluti responded that the new administrator's salary will be paid for through the Preschool expansion grant.

Mrs. Capone asked if the Board asked for any concessions from the Union to save the music teacher. She also wanted to know who recommended the cut.

Mrs. Capone noted the contract recently settled for Supervisors. She feels this money could have been used to save the music program. She also stated that it is a poor argument to blame the State for not getting more funds.

Mr. Sacchinelli commented on Mrs. Capone's statement and noted that the funds for the Supervisors' salaries had previously been allocated.

Shannon Branca wanted to clarify that after school activities would still be held for the children. Dr. Cappelluti noted that they would.

Tracy Bustard noted a previous question asked regarding banked cap. She wanted to know if doing this would save a position. She asked the Board to please reconsider their decision.

Thomas Grunwald stated that he would like to see his taxes utilized to save the position of the music teacher.

(D) School Spring Concerts:

Shaner School:

- May 6, 7 & 8 @ 9:30 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room

Davies School:

- May 1, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m. – Atlantic Cape Teen Arts Festival – Hammonton, NJ
- May 21, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m. – Davies Spring Concert in the Hess School Auditorium

(E) Round-Up Registration/PreSchool and Kindergarten

- May 19, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m./1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
- May 20, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m./1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
- May 21, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m./1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

BUILDING/FACILITIES COMMITTEE - Mr. Ciambrone

None

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – Mrs. Kupp

Motion by Mrs. Kupp, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the following motion, as presented:

1. To approve the submission of a New Jersey Child Assault Prevention Grant Application (NJCAP) for the 2015-2016 school year. The Grant request is for full funding to provide our schools and community with information and resources to reduce children's vulnerability to assault and bullying.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mrs. Buchanan,

Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis,
Mr. Haye, Mrs. Kupp, Mr. Sacchinelli, and
Mr. Aiken. (8-0-0)

FINANCE/SUPPLY COMMITTEE – Mrs. Melton

Motion by Mrs. Kupp, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the following motion, as presented:

1. To approve the Resolution #90 of the Hamilton Township Board of Education to adopt the 2015-2016 Budget, as per attachment Finance-1.

Mr. Sacchinelli asked if the Board would consider tabling the budget to make any possible changes.

Motion by Mr. Cassidy, seconded by Mr. Ciambrone, to table Finance #1.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mr. Haye, Mrs. Kupp, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Mr. Aiken. (8-0-0)

Motion by Mrs. Kupp, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the following motion, as presented:

2. To accept the Superintendent's and Board Secretary's certification that they have reviewed all bills and purchase orders which are listed on the bill list, and hereby certify to the Board of Education that all purchase orders are sufficiently encumbered to cover the submitted bills, and further that all goods and services have been previously received.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mr. Haye, Mrs. Kupp, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Mr. Aiken. (8-0-0)

The following item has been included as an informational item:

3. Purchase orders issued for services, supplies and equipment in the amount of \$16,321.48, as per attachment Finance -3.

Motion by Mrs. Kupp, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the following motion, as presented:

4. To approve the following bills and payroll in the total amount of \$352,630.44, as per attachment Finance -4:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10	General Fund	\$839.00
11	Current Expense	152,613.23
11	Special Revenue	15,030.23
50	Cafeteria	152,644.69
50	Kids' Corner	21,474.84
50	Community Education	4,704.68
50	Camp Blue Star	5,323.77

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mr. Haye, Mrs. Kupp, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Mr. Aiken. (8-0-0)

PERSONNEL/NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE - Mr. Sacchinelli

All personnel actions are being taken by the recommendation of the Superintendent in accordance with 18A.

Motioned by Mr. Sacchinelli, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the following motions as presented:

1. To approve district substitutes for the 2014-2015 school year, as per attachment Personnel-1.
2. To approve homebound instruction for the 2014-2015 school year, as per attachment Personnel-2.

Seven in favor #1: Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mr. Haye, Mrs. Kupp, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Mr. Aiken. Nay: Mrs. Francis. (7-1-0)

All in favor #2: Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mr. Haye, Mrs. Kupp, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Mr. Aiken. (8-0-0)

Motioned by Mr. Sacchinelli, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the following motion as presented:

3. To accept a retirement notice from Diane Scott, Speech Language Specialist effective July 1, 2015 with her last day of employment to be June 30, 2015, as per attachment Personnel-3.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mr. Haye, Mrs. Kupp, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Mr. Aiken. (8-0-0)

Motioned by Mr. Sacchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Kupp, to approve the following motions as presented:

4. To change the start date for Caitlin Ponticello, Hess Speech Language Specialist from April 9, 2015 to April 13, 2015.
5. To approve Magdalen Bradley as a part-time, 29 hours/week Shaner School Paraprofessional for the period April 28, 2015 through June 30, 2015, Paraprofessional Guide, Step 1, with a total annual salary of \$15,979.00, pro-rated, as per attachment Personnel-5.

Miss Bradley is a replacement for Claudia Sobkiw who has resigned.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mr. Haye, Mrs. Kupp, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Mr. Aiken. (8-0-0)

Motioned by Mr. Sacchinelli, seconded by Mrs. Kupp, to approve the following motion as presented:

6. To approve Colleen Bretones as a full-time Supervisor of Early Childhood Education for the 2015-2016 school year, Administrator's Guide A, Step 2 with a total annual salary of \$105,998.00, pro-rated, with a start date to be determined, as per attachment Personnel-6.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mr. Haye, Mrs. Kupp, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Mr. Aiken. (8-0-0)

POLICY COMMITTEE – Mrs. Buchanan

None

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – Mr. Cassidy

None

RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the following motion, as presented:

1. To support Resolution #91 approving Pension and Health Benefits Reform, as per attachment Resolutions-1.

All in favor: Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mr. Haye, Mrs. Kupp, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Mr. Aiken. (8-0-0)

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shannon Branca stated that she does not understand how some of the parents here tonight feel that one position in the music department is more important than some of the other teachers being cut from the budget this year.

Mrs. Branca also asked if taxes were raised for one teacher this year, does it necessarily mean the position will not be cut next year.

Dr. Cappelluti noted that is possible for any non-tenured teacher to be cut from the budget.

Mays Landing, NJ
April 27, 2015

Denise Brasher had a question regarding the total operating budget.

Amy Hassa noted that the positions being cut from the budget are employees making lower salaries. She would like to know when cuts will come from employees making higher salaries.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Sacchinelli, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mr. Haye, Mrs. Kupp, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Mr. Aiken. (8-0-0)

The Hamilton Township Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:35p.m.

Daniel Smith
Board Secretary