

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:02 p.m. – 10:28 p.m. January 20, 2016

Members Present:

Gina Scaletta-Nelson, Presiding Officer

Kim Barker

Vipul Dedhia

Mark Mirabile – arrived at 8:10 p.m.

Michael Rak– arrived at 7:14 p.m.

Kristin Violante

Absent:

David Negron

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet were staff members Erika Sawosko, Candy Kramer, Catherine Chang, Matt Vandercar, John Glimco, Joanne Histed, Colleen Enger, Michelle Neuberg, Michelle Jarosik, Julia Spencer, Maribeth Kavanaugh and Karyn Lisowski; and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Distasio, and Steve Wrigter (ineligible).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Present were students from the Pleasantdale Elementary School who have earned an Eagle Feather lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION NO. 34 Consent Agenda

Motion by Violante, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as revised consisting of: special meeting minutes of December 7, 2015; closed session meeting minutes of December 7, 2015; regular meeting minutes of December 16, 2015; closed session meeting minutes of December 16, 2015; payment of December payroll/January warrants; declassify closed session minutes (the destruction of audio tapes over 18 months old was removed from the recommendation); Grade 1 Job Share proposals for 2016-17; fees for the 2016-17 school year; Community Relations (sec. 8) Board Policies; and January 2016 Personnel Report including the retirement of custodian Jim Lucarelli effective January 29, 2016, hiring of Jim Lucarelli as lunchroom aide effective February 1, 2016 and Amy DiCosola as reading specialist/RtI facilitator effective January 25, 2016. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent – Negron, Mirabile.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Preschool Presentation

Elementary School Principal Matt Vandercar and our preschool teachers presented improvements to our preschool program. The goal of these changes is to improve the school experience for our youngest learners. The two changes include creating a multi-year preschool experience where three- and four-year olds will learn from one another in a play-based academic environment. Additionally, to provide greater continuity to our students, the district will discontinue the two-day preschool option.

Water Main Easement Proposal

The builder/owner for the residence at 10932 German Church Road presented a request to tap into the District's water main on elementary school property. This work would not impact the water pressure or the quality of the water at Pleasantdale Elementary School. The water for the new residence will be individually metered and the district will not be charged for the

residence's water. Additionally, the proposal included a change to our easement. The Easement Agreement, which will be drafted by the District's attorney at the homeowner's expense, will be an item on the February Board agenda.

5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions

Dave Palzet, Superintendent of Schools, reviewed the results of the 5Essentials survey that was given to students in grades 6-8 and all teachers last spring. While the results show that our schools continue to be great places to work and learn, there are improvements that we can make to improve the working conditions for teachers and the learning conditions for students.

Over the course of the school year, several initiatives have been put in place to improve the learning conditions in our schools. A few of these initiatives include collaboratively creating one-year goals for the district, implementing regular communication tools, and creating teacher-involved task forces to address building issues.

Preliminary Review of District Calendar

Each year a group of teachers, administrators, and parents work together to review and revise the school calendar for the upcoming school year. In an effort to ensure the most convenient calendar for our families, our calendar closely mirrors the calendar of Lyons Township High School. The Board of Education reviewed the recommended calendar and will officially approve the 2016-17 school calendar at the February Board of Education meeting.

Facilities Advisory Team Meeting

The Facilities Advisory Team met on Wednesday, January 6 and discussed the district's new five-year facilities plan. The goal of this plan is proactively in ensuring that our facilities are maintained at a high level. Additionally, the team reviewed improvements to our technology infrastructure. Some of our summer projects include resurfacing the parking lot at Pleasantdale Elementary School and an improvement in wifi connectivity at both schools.

Bond Abatement

The District's Finance Advisory Team met on Monday, January 11. For the past 5 years, the District has abated a total of \$5.68 million of debt service to lower the tax rates for the community. Upon advice from the District's Bond Counsel, the Advisory Team recommends refunding the 2006 bond in addition to abating \$500,000 of bonds. This action will reduce the tax burden of a house assessed at \$300,000 by \$81.17 and a house assessed at \$500,000 by \$140.35. It is our goal to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars while at the same time ensuring that we provide the highest quality education for our students.

Board of Education Information Requests

No Requests

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the February 2016 agenda include:

Approve Easement Request; Approve 2016-17 District Calendar; Approve Abatement of Bonds; Review Governance and Planning (sec. 1) Board Policies; and Preliminary Staffing Recommendations.

ACTION NO. 35

Closed Session

Motion by Rak, seconded by Violante, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 8:36 p.m. to discuss matters relating to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District; and collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives; and. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent – Negron.

The Board came out of closed session at 10:27 p.m.

ACTION NO. 36

Contract 2015-2020 The motion failed due to lack of a first.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Barker, seconded by Mirabile, that the regular meeting adjourns at 10:28 p.m.
Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. ____ President _____ Secretary _____