

RED BANK BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
RED BANK, NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2010

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.

2. SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was advertised as directed by resolution adopted April 28, 2009. Notice of this meeting was published in the *Asbury Park Press*, *The Hub*, and the *Two River Times* newspapers per code and sent to the Municipal Clerk, Red Bank Borough, within 7 days per code.

Fire exits located in the direction indicated. In case of fire, you will be signaled by bell and/or public address system. If so alerted to fire, please move in a calm and orderly fashion to the nearest smoke-free exit.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Grace Costa, Ben Forest, Marjorie Lowe, Ann Roseman, Peter Noble

Absent: Janet Jones, Rosemarie Kopka, Carrie Ludwikowski

Also present: Laura C. Morana, Superintendent; Armen McOmber, Esq.

4. FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Noble led the Flag Salute.

Dr. Morana advised the Board about the following additional agenda items:

Resolution 6070—this grant opportunity just came in and it is a wonderful opportunity for the district. The application is due January 19, so it must be on this evening's agenda.

5. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Personnel – Committee as a Whole

B. Contract Negotiations – Update

C. Mid-Year Evaluation of Superintendent

D. Attorney-Client Privilege

6. CALL TO ORDER

At 8:00 pm the meeting reconvened from Executive Session.

7. ROLL CALL

Present: Grace Costa, Ben Forest, Janet Jones, Marjorie Lowe, Carrie Ludwikowski, Ann Roseman, Peter Noble

Absent: Rosemarie Kopka

Also present: Laura C. Morana, Superintendent; Armen McOmber, Esq.

8. SUNSHINE STATEMENT

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9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Resolution Honoring Board Members

Dr. Morana read aloud the resolution honoring our Board members and expressed her appreciation for the work they do to support the students of the district and the Red Bank community. We are forever grateful for their role as a Red Bank Board of Education member. The Board took a five-minute break to enjoy the cake honoring our members.

B. Budget Development Process – 2010-2011

Dr. Morana and Ms. Darrow advised the Board that the district is in the process of developing their budget for the 2010-2011 school year. Administrators have submitted their budget requests; and we are in the process of reviewing the projection. Administrators are expected to justify their requests during ongoing meetings with the Superintendent and Business Administrator. Dr. Morana and Ms. Darrow will meet with the Executive County Superintendent and the Executive County Business Administrator for a district budget review on February 16. The Finance Committee budget presentation will be held on February 18 at 5:30 pm in the Middle School. As in previous years, this meeting will be advertised in a legal notice and all Board members, as well as community members, are invited to attend. Dr. Morana stated that the information she has regarding preschool expansion for 2010-2011 appears to support maintaining our current level of funding for our program. She will meet with the PTO President to work with them for ways they can support our schools in the areas of field trips, student organizations, tools, etc.

C. Count Basie Property

With regard to the contamination report of the Count Basie property by Monmouth Daycare Center, Mr. McOmber provided background on the property. As part of the lease with the Borough, Red Bank Public Schools allows use of the Count Basie Property for athletics. This lease dates back from the 1980s, and unbeknownst to the district, the Borough had allowed use of a section of the property to the Monmouth Daycare Center for a playground.

As part of the new daycare certification regulations, Monmouth Daycare Center was required to conduct a soil test of the property. The soil test revealed that there were contaminants in the soil; although they were not excessive levels, they were above the minimum. Monmouth Daycare Center immediately ceased using the property.

The Board has two proposals to study further delineation of the site. Mr. McOmber stressed that the levels barely exceed the limits, and the area is currently off limits; and no one is at risk. Ms. Darrow indicated that there will be a final recommendation for a proposal and soil testing for the January 19 meeting.

Mr. McOmber indicated there is a statute requiring parents/guardians and staff of a contaminated site being notified; and Monmouth Daycare Center did send that information as required.

There was discussion that although it is not required, the district put out a press release in conjunction with the Monmouth Daycare Center and the Borough. The discussion continued about waiting for the fact information so we know what we are dealing with and to err on the side of caution. There was a question about testing the rest of the fields and whether or not that had been done by the Borough. Ms. Darrow will contact the Borough about whether or not testing has been done.

D. State Aid Update – 2009-2010

Governor Corzine's suggestion to reduce state aid based on surplus is not being done at the time. Once Governor-elect Christie is sworn into office it is expected that cuts will be made.

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E. Race to the Top Grant Opportunity

Dr. Morana reviewed the background of the grant opportunity and the requirements that include the NJEA to sign the agreement that could impact terms of the contract agreements. NJEA has issued guidance to their members that they should not sign the agreement; we will submit our application without this signature. Dr. Morana reviewed the focus of interest that the district will apply, and they are standards and assessments and data systems to support instruction. These are areas of focus that the district already maintains, so participation in the grant would enhance what we are already doing.

F. QSAC Mid-Year Review

The QSAC Mid-year review took place and the district's scores were recalculated to reflect meeting AYP in Language Arts Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5); Mathematics Elementary (Grades 3, 4, 5); Middle School Language Arts (Grades 6, 7, 8). The district has satisfied at least 80 percent of the indicators in each of the five areas of the QSAC review process; therefore, the district is designated as a high performance district.

WHEREAS, Governor Jon Corzine, the National and New Jersey School Boards Associations, and the New Jersey State Board of Education have all declared the month of January 2010 to be School Board Recognition Month, and

WHEREAS, this moment is a time to acknowledge the service and contribution of the nine elected citizens who volunteer their time on our local Red Bank Borough Board of Education, and

WHEREAS, our Red Bank Borough Board members continue to encourage a culture of high performance for the more than 900 students enrolled in our pre-school through 8th grade, and

WHEREAS, our Board of Education serves as a successful model of governance, a factor that has enabled the Red Bank Borough School District to support the implementation of high-quality early childhood, primary and middle school education, a comprehensive fine and performing arts program, and provide equal education opportunities to all students, and

WHEREAS, the characteristics of high performing schools and districts demonstrate that the Red Bank Borough School District is committed to fulfilling its mission of Quality Learning by All, Whatever it Takes!

RESOLVED, that I, the Superintendent of Schools, Laura C. Morana, on behalf of Red Bank Borough students, staff, and community do hereby acknowledge the efforts of school board members throughout New Jersey, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we acknowledge the service of and express gratitude to Peter Noble, Ann Roseman, Grace Costa, Ben Forest, Janet Jones, Rosemarie Kopka, Marjorie Lowe, Carrie Ludwikowski.

10. CORRESPONDENCE – NONE

11. REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

12. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Board Vacancy

Mr. Noble advised the Board that we have two candidates apply for the opening. One candidate is not eligible because of an immediate member of his family working in the district. Also, this candidate has applied for work as a substitute in the district. The interviews will take place next week.

B. New Jersey Council for Young Children

Mr. Noble announced that Dr. Morana was chosen to sit on the NJ Council for Young Children. This is an honor for Dr. Morana as well as an opportunity to highlight the positive programs in the district.

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- C. School Boards' Convention Participation Summary
Mr. Nobel reported on his NJSBA workshop sessions
- D. New Ways to Use Public Relations to Disseminate Your Message Training Participation Summary
Ms. Ludwikowski will report on her workshop at the next meeting.

13. HEARING OF PUBLIC - None
Bylaw #060 reads . . . "Any individual deciding to speak shall sign the speaker's sheet before the business of the meeting has begun. Please include your name, address and group or organization you represent. All comments will be directed to the Chair. Speakers shall be limited to one (1) turn of five (5) minutes with a total public participation not exceeding 60 minutes."

14. STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC
Often times it may appear to members of our audience that the Board of Education takes action with very little comment and in many cases a unanimous vote. Before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting the administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter with the Superintendent of Schools. If the Superintendent of Schools is satisfied that the matter is ready to be presented to the Board of Education, it is then referred to the appropriate committee. The members of the board committee work with Administration and the Superintendent to assure that the members fully understand the matter. When the committee is satisfied with the matter, it is presented to the Board of Education for discussion before any final action is taken. Only then is it placed on the agenda for action at a public meeting.

15. ACTION AGENDA
Ms. Ludwikowski motioned, seconded by Mr. Forest, to approve the following:

BUSINESS – 3000

BE IT RESOLVED by the RED BANK BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent the following FINANCE resolution(s) are approved as indicated:

3122. TRAVEL

Name	Date/Time	Location	Fee	Theme	Account #
John Bombardier	01/13/10 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Montclair, NJ	\$0.00	Creating College & Work Ready Students	NA
Wendy Turnock	01/13/10 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Montclair, NJ	\$0.00	Creating College & Work Ready Students	NA
Diane Dublirer	01/15/10 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Point Pleasant, NJ	\$0.00	MOCSSIF Board Meeting	NA
John Bombardier	01/15/10 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Linden, NJ	\$0.00	Project Lead the Way	NA
Jayne Frankenfield	01/15/10 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Linden, NJ	\$0.00	Project Lead the Way	NA
Maria Iozzi	01/15/10 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Linden, NJ	\$0.00	Project Lead the Way	NA
Joanne Fiore	01/22/10 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	MRESC, Piscataway, NJ	\$120.00	Increasing On Task Performance for Students with ADHD	11-000-219-592-003

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Laura Morana	01/28/10 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Newark, NJ	\$0.00	ACNJ Build NJ Meeting	NA
Wendy Strumph	01/28/10 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Princeton, NJ	\$179.00	Helping Children with Auditory Processing Disorders	11-000-219-890-003
Joanne Fiore	02/26/10 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	MRESC, Piscataway, NJ	\$120.00	Assessment & Goal Selection for Students with Autism	11-000-219-592-003
John Bombardier	03/05/10 - 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	New York, NY	\$225.00	Celebration of Teaching & Learning 2010	11-000-223-500-004
Laura Morana	03/06/10 - 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	New York, NY	\$225.00	Celebration of Teaching & Learning 2010	11-000-223-500-004
Laura Morana	03/12/10 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	NJPSA Monroe, NJ	\$0.00	Dealing with the Most Difficult Issues for School Leaders (presenting)	NA
Mayra Velasquez	03/16/10 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	New Brunswick, NJ	\$125.00	Collaborative Writing	20-231-200-500-003

3123. **TERMINATION OF STATE HEALTH BENEFITS**

That the Red Bank Borough Board of Education, Monmouth County, approves the resolution to terminate participation under the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program (N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25 et seq.) for all its active and retired employees.

1. We shall notify all active employees of the date of their termination of coverage under the program.
2. We understand that the Division of Pensions and Benefits will notify retired employees of the cancellation of their coverage.
3. We understand that all COBRA participants will be notified by the Division of Pensions and Benefits and advised to contact our office concerning a possible alternative health program.
4. We understand that the resolution will take effect the first of the month following a 60-day period beginning with the receipt of the resolution by State Health Benefits Commission.

3124. **STATE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM**

To approve Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, brokered by LDP Consulting Group, to replace the medical program covered by The State Health Benefit Program, effective April 1, 2010 through January 30, 2011. This plan has an equal to or better than benefit level than the current State Health Benefit Program.

PERSONNEL - 4000

BE IT RESOLVED by the RED BANK BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following PERSONNEL resolution(s) are approved as indicated:

4828. That the Board approves the following as Guest Teachers effective January 13, 2010 through June 30, 2010.

Catherine Balbo
Tracy Hemberger

Melanie Prisby
Jessica Rossano

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CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM – 6000

BE IT RESOLVED by the RED BANK BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent the following CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM resolution(s) are approved as indicated:

6068. That the Red Bank Board of Education deems student participation in curriculum related field trips to be educationally beneficial. Pursuant to regulation 6A:23A-5.(c)(1), the Board hereby approves the resolution.

Location	Date
Bowling Tournament of Champions, Howell, NJ (All Special Education Classes)	01/26/10, 02/23/10, 03/02/10, 03/16/10 & 04/06/10

6069. That the Board authorizes the Superintendent to submit a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) entered into by and between New Jersey (“State”) and Red Bank Public Schools (“Participating LEA”). The purpose of this agreement is to establish a framework of collaboration, as well as articulate specific roles and responsibilities in support of the State in its implementation of an approved Race to the Top Grant project.

LEA’s responsibilities in assisting the State in implementing the tasks and activities described in the State’s Race to the Top application, the Red Bank Borough Schools will implement the State’s plan in areas identified:

- Implement the LEA plan as identified in Exhibits I and II of this agreement;

Elements of State Reform Plans	LEA Participation (Y/N)	Comments for LEA (optional)
B. Standards and Assessments		
(B)(3) Supporting the transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments	√	
C. Data Systems to Support Instruction		
(C)(3) Using data to improve instruction:		
(i) Use of local instruction improvement systems	√	
(ii) Professional development on use of data	√	
(iii) Availability and accessibility of data to researchers	√	

- Actively participate in all relevant convenings, communities of practice, or other practice-sharing events that are organized or sponsored by the State or by the U.S. Department of Education (“ED”);
- Post to any website specified by the State or ED, in a timely manner, all non-proprietary products and lessons learned or developed using funds associated with the Race to the Top grant;
- Participate, as requested, in any evaluations of this grant conducted by the State or ED;
- Be responsive to State or ED requests for information including those regarding the status of the project, project implementation, outcomes, and any problems anticipated or encountered;
- Participate in meetings and telephone conferences with the State to discuss (a) progress of the project, (b) potential dissemination of resulting non-proprietary products and lessons learned, (c) plans for subsequent years of the Race to the Top grant period, and (d) other matters related to the Race to the Top grant and associated plans.

The Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective beginning with the date of Board approval hereon and, if a grant is received, ending upon the expiration of the grant project period, or upon written mutual agreement of the parties, whichever occurs first.

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6070. That the Board authorizes the Superintendent to submit the application to participate at no cost to the district in the *Preschool Research Network* with the generous funding from the Education Research Section (ERS) of Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and co-sponsored by The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) and The Division of Early Childhood Education (DECE) of the New Jersey Department of Education. The *Preschool Research Network* will be a small, diverse group of districts committed to processing and disseminating information as well as conducting research to guide preschool policies and practice with a special focus on English Language Learners (ELL).

AYES: Costa, Forest, Jones, Lowe, Ludwikowski, Roseman, Noble
NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS: None

16. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC - None

17. OLD BUSINESS

- Board members requested an update on Rosemarie Kopka's progress. Dr. Morana and Ms. Darrow had visited her Saturday; and although she is coming along, she is still experiencing pain. Ms. Roseman spoke with her yesterday and she sounded much better. Everyone expressed their concern and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Ms. Costa motioned to adjourn. This motion was not accepted as the meeting was not over.

18. NEW BUSINESS

- Suggestion from a Board member to take the time to look at the artwork in the hallways. The students did a remarkable job.
- Board members were invited to attend the professional development session being held at the Middle School on January 13. Dr. Noguera will be speaking.

There was discussion about whether a second Executive Session was needed; and it was determined it was not.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:18 pm Ms. Costa motioned, seconded by Ms. Jones, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne E. Darrow
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator