

RED BANK BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
RED BANK, NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2011

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:01 pm – Middle School Cafeteria

2. SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was advertised as directed by resolution adopted May 3, 2010. Notice of this meeting was published in the *Asbury Park Press* 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: Ernest Anemone, Janet Jones, Peter Noble, Suzanne Viscomi, Ben Forest, Ann Roseman
Absent: Grace Costa, Marjorie Lowe, Carrie Ludwikowski
Also present: Laura C. Morana, Superintendent; Peter Sokol, Esq.

4. FLAG SALUTE

Ms. Roseman led the Salute to the Flag.

5. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:03 pm Mr. Forest motioned, seconded by Ms. Jones, to convene in Executive Session.

- A. Personnel – Assignment Status
- B. Administrative Unit Contract Negotiations – Update

6. CALL TO ORDER – 8:00 p.m.

7. SUNSHINE STATEMENT

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8. ROLL CALL

Present: Ernest Anemone, Janet Jones, Marjorie Lowe, Peter Noble, Suzanne Viscomi, Ben Forest, Ann Roseman
Absent: Grace Costa, Carrie Ludwikowski
Also present: Laura C. Morana, Superintendent; Peter Sokol, Esq.

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9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. NJ State Department of Education Monmouth County Office Efficiency Standards
Ms. Darrow reviewed the Efficiency Standards Report and highlighted the areas where the district was considered inefficient, and related how these areas had to do with below or above state median. An example of an area where we were rated inefficient was due to having less administrators, and resulted from staff reductions at the administration level and not the classroom level.

- B. Budget Planning 2011-2012
Dr. Morana highlighted how the budget continues to be developed with keeping students' needs and community resources in mind. Difficult decisions are being made to preserve what we currently have in the district, considering data and what needs to be in place to support student learning. She discussed enrollment changes and the shift in special education and PreK students, and grade level changes. Dr. Morana is exploring creative ways to allocate staff while responding to student learning—i.e. some students who excel in a curricular area may be moved to the next grade level for that class. We are also reassessing the use of instructional assistants.

The district is dealing with a difficult economic climate and the unknown state aid allocation. Within the state there is discussion about reducing PreK funding to a half-day, and this would have a drastic impact on our budget. Dr. Morana also discussed the two percent cap on the local tax levy and stated that our goal is to come in under that cap, although it depends on the amount of the state aid.

- C. Legislative Update
Ms. Darrow advised the reforms that Governor Christie and Senator Sweeney are both supporting are bills that would require state employees to contribute more towards their medical benefits. She explained that currently there is a 1.5 percent salary contribution that is not tied to the cost of the insurance premium. Both plans would be based on a percentage of the premium. Senator Sweeney's plan is to be phased in and tiered based on the employee's salary; while Governor Christie's plan would require all public employees to pay 30 percent of their premium on a gradual basis. Both plans also would include the ability for employees to take a lower level benefit if desired.

- D. Professional In-Service Day Overview
Dr. Morana reviewed the agenda for the February 22 professional development day and indicated that it is being provided free of charge due to partnerships with colleges, universities, and AVID. This is an opportunity for the district to participate in a high quality professional development day.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

None

11. REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

There were no questions or discussion on the agenda. Board members were encouraged to completely review the policies that will be on the agenda for approval. They were included in their Friday packets.

12. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Budget Rollout Calendar 2011-2012

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Ms. Roseman encouraged Board members to look at the calendar that was distributed this evening and to please participate wherever possible.

- B. Board Member Feedback from NJSBA “Learning to Work Within the 2% Cap” – Ann Roseman
 Ms. Roseman summarized the professional development and the challenges that districts are under due to the difficult economic climate.

- C. Red Bank Middle School Athletics Foundation Status – Gene Horowitz, President
 Mr. Horowitz reviewed the timeline for the creation of the Foundation, the goals, and the current status. He stated that many people have been working very hard in order to provide students with a sports program. He encouraged the Board to participate in the activities.

13. HEARING OF PUBLIC

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.”

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. Jones motioned, seconded by Mr. Noble, to accept 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:

3127. TRAVEL

Name	Date/Time	Location	Fee	Theme	Account Number
Maria Iozzi	02/28/11 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Edison, NJ	\$0.00	SIA Technical Assistance	NA

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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:

6054. 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.

Funding Source	Location	Date(s)
PreK Program	Super FoodTown, Red Bank, NJ (St. Anthony’s PreK – 2 classes only)	01/31/11 (rescheduled due to inclement weather)
Walking Trip	Pilgrim Baptist Church, Red Bank, NJ (Selected 2 nd and 3 rd grade students)	02/16/11
Walking Trip	Red Bank Senior Center, Red Bank, NJ (Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest Winners)	02/18/11

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Anemone, Jones, Lowe, Noble, Viscomi, Forest, Roseman

NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS: None

16. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

17. OLD BUSINESS

18. NEW BUSINESS

- Board member stated that NJSBA has several resolutions on their website and he questioned whether the Board would like to support these. For example: favoring last/best offer and tenure reform are among the resolutions. Ms. Darrow will have copies of the resolution in the next board packet.
- Board member had toured both schools with Dr. Morana and was impressed with the curriculum and level of engagement of the students. He stated that the Board had a lot to be proud of.
- Reminder about the Finance Committee meeting/2011-2012 Budget Presentation at 5:30 pm in the Cafeteria.
- Comment about efficiency standards and the district’s ability to be successful proves that big is not always better.
- Although not in attendance at the Strings competition, Board member had only heard good things about the performance.

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- NJSBA workshop in Atlantic City has been approved for Board members to attend overnight next fall.
- Children are going to the senior center to read their essays. Students are so proud of their work and also proud of one another's work.
- Ms. Darrow indicated that since the December 26th storm is considered a state of emergency, she has submitted costs to FEMA for consideration to receive funding.
- Dr. Morana received an email from the National Association for the Education of Young Children that commended the work of the Red Bank Borough School District and the accomplishments with the PreK and Primary School programs. They have invited Dr. Morana to be the closing session speaker at their national conference.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:08 pm Mr. Noble motioned, seconded by Ms. Jones, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne E. Darrow
Board Secretary/Business Administrator