

MINUTES - November 7, 2007

A. CALL TO ORDER

The **Conference Meeting** of the Board of Education of the Bordentown Regional School District was convened on the above date at 7:00 p.m. with Mr. Gabauer presiding.

Sunshine Law Statement

The Board Secretary read the following statement:
In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is to announce that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the following manner: Schedule of meetings to be held from May 2, 2007 through April 9, 2008 was conveyed to the Burlington County Times, The Register News, and the Trenton Times on May 4, 2007.

The Secretary will enter this public announcement into the minutes of this meeting.

B. FLAG SALUTE/SILENT REFLECTION

The Board President led the members of the Board and audience in the salute to the flag and moment of silent reflection.

C. ROLL CALL

The following members answered roll call: Ms. Cheesman, Ms. Dansbury, Ms. Gens, Mr. Lynch, Ms. Trogdon, Ms. Zablow, and Mr. Gabauer. ABSENT: Ms. Glenn (arrived at 7:35 p.m.).

Also attending were: Dr. Albert Monillas, Superintendent, and Mrs. Peggy A. Ianoale, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Staff attending were: Susan Gerike, Liz Brotherton, Rob Walder, Kathy Siegfried, Louise Sullivan, Karen Lubbers, Bev Novonglosky, Carol McDermott, Lisa Limani, Sam Tola, Mark Damon

Visitors attending: Jim Brotherton, Margaret Casey-Kruger, Stephanie Prokop

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution:

Mr. Lynch read the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Cheesman and unanimously approved at 7:00 p.m.:

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D. EXECUTIVE SESSION (continued)

Open Public Meetings Act

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et. Seq. (Open Public Meetings Act) provides that the Bordentown Regional Board of Education may exclude the public from that portion of the meeting at which the Board of Education discusses certain matters as set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; and

WHEREAS, the following subject shall be discussed in a session of the Board closed to the public:

PERSONNEL

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the aforesated meeting is closed to the public for the reasons set forth above in accordance with the OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the discussion in closed session will be disclosed to the public at such time as it is no longer necessary to maintain the confidential nature of the items discussed.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:25 p.m.

E. SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMEBER

A motion was made by Ms. Cheesman, seconded by Ms. Dansbury to appoint Ms. Ellen Wehrman to the Board of Education as a representative for Bordentown City through April, 2008.

ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Ms. Cheesman, Ms. Dansbury, Ms. Gens, Ms. Glenn (arrived at 7:35 and was present for this vote), Mr. Lynch, Ms. Trogdon, Ms. Zablow and Mr. Gabauer. NOES: None. ABSTENTIONS: None. ABSENT: None.
Motion unanimously approved.

F. PRESENTATION

1. Mr. Sam Tola - Guidance Presentation

G. PRESIDENT GABAUER'S REPORT

1. Minutes from 10/3/07 & 10/17/07 - no corrections
2. Interim CSA discussion held for Executive Session

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H. PUBLIC FORUM

Ms. Margaret Casey-Kruger thanked the Board for allowing her to do an administrative internship at Clara Barton Elementary School and MacFarland Intermediate School.

I. ATHLETIC REPORT

Meeting date to be scheduled. Ms. Cheesman will send out a request for dates for the upcoming meeting.

J. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT - Mr. Brian Lynch

No report. Next meeting date to be determined, but will take place at Peter Muschal Elementary School.

K. CURRICULUM/STUDENT ACTIVITIES REPORT - Ms. Chris Trogdon

No report

L. FINANCE REPORT - Ms. Pauline Glenn

No report

M. NEGOTIATIONS REPORT - Ms. Joann Dansbury

The Transportation Department representatives have requested that we schedule a meeting for November 12th (not the 14th); otherwise, the week of November 19th. Committee members will give their available dates to Mrs. Ianoale for scheduling.

N. PERSONNEL REPORT - Ms. Kim Zablow

1. Appointments per Superintendent's Recommendation: Resolution: Criminal History Check

The following staff, positions, and salaries are appointed for emergent hiring pending completion and certification of the State of New Jersey criminal history check. Affidavit(s) from the applicant(s) attesting to no criminal record are in the Superintendent's possession. Staff to which this resolution applies is noted in **bold** print.

- a. Ms. Lori Monaghan recommended for Basic Skills Instruction Teacher at PMS, filling the vacancy created by Ms. Conigliaro's retirement. Ms. Monaghan will be returning from leave of absence on December 5, 2007.

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N. PERSONNEL REPORT - Ms. Kim Zablow (continued)

- b. Ms. Laura Muldowney recommended to remain as 2nd grade teacher at PMS through June 30, 2008. She was the leave replacement for Ms. Monaghan.
- c. Resignation of Mr. Chad Hooper from the position of night shift custodian, effective October 26, 2007.
- d. Resignation of Ms. Ellen Wilson from the position of bus aide, effective October 26, 2007.
- e. Resignation of Ms. Connie Stanton from the position of bus aide, effective October 26, 2007.
- f. Resignation of Mr. Roger Cornelius from the position of Winter Track Coach and Head Boys' Spring Track Coach.
- g. Mr. Rob Shappell to mentor under Mr. Rob Walder at MIS, Mr. Patrick Lynch at BRHS, and Dr. Wendy Weber-O'Neal at BRHS, in completion of his internship in Educational Administration for Drexel University.
- h. Ms. Tiffany Chen to do interview and observation at PMS, in partial fulfillment of college credits at Rowan University.
- i. Leave request for Employee #4992 from the position of 4th grade teacher at MIS, effective 11/26/07. She will use 20 paid sick days prior and 12 paid sick days following. She is requesting to be on 12 weeks of Federal Family Leave Act through 4/21/08. She would like to request the remainder of the school year as unpaid leave, from 4/22/08 through 6/30/08.
- j. Leave request for Employee #4615 from the position of bus aide. She will be using 46 accumulated paid sick days from 11/1/07 to 1/18/08 and then 12 weeks NJ Family Leave Act, unpaid but with benefits, from 1/22/08 to 4/22/08.
- k. Recommendation for Ms. Christina Briel to go from 5 hr/day evening part-time to full-time evening position, filling anticipated vacancy.
- l. Recommendation for Mr. John Malone to go from 5 hr/day evening part-time to full-time evening, filling vacancy.

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N. PERSONNEL REPORT - Ms. Zablow (continued)

- m. Recommendation to hire Ms. Nicole McIntyre as contracted bus aide.
- n. Recommendation to hire Mr. Peter Pasicznyk as contracted bus aide.
- o. Recommendation to hire Ms. Jennifer Sprague as contracted bus aide.
- p. Recommendations for Winter Coaches - stipends as per negotiated agreement:

BRMS: Boys Basketball: Mr. Kristian Rivera - Head Coach, Step 1, \$3,785
Mr. Fred Lemmerling - Asst. Coach, \$1,500

Girls Basketball: Mr. Rob Conlin - Head Coach, Step 2, \$4,205
Mr. William Lloyd - Asst. Coach, \$1,500

Wrestling: Mr. Anthony Arroyo - Head Coach, Step \$3,785
Mr. Chris Garofalo - Asst. Coach, \$1,500

Cheerleading: Ms. Heather Garecht - Head Coach, Step 1, \$1,985

(NOTE: BRMS Asst. Coaches are paid a "flat rate stipend" of \$1,500)

BRHS: Boys Basketball: Mr. Craig Parker - Head Coach, Step 1, \$5,956
Mr. Mamon Bey - Asst. Coach, Step 1, \$3,785

Girls Basketball: Mr. Rob Shappell - Head Coach, Step 2, \$6,618

Ms. Yolanda Ward - Asst. Coach, Step 3, \$4,205

Mr. Larry Carthan - Asst. Coach, Step 3, \$4,673

Wrestling: Mr. Joe Sprague - Head Coach, Step 3, \$7,354

Mr. Larry Larned - Asst. Coach, Step 2, \$4,205

Winter Track: Mr. David Misselhorn - Head Coach, Step 3, \$6,051

Cheerleading: Ms. Jodie Glenn - co-Head Coach, Step 3, \$1,876.50

Ms. Beth Boccanfuso - co-Head Coach, Step 3, \$1,876.50

Bowling: Mr. Ron Jones - Head Coach, Step 2, \$3,723

Mr. Jason D'Annunzio - Assistant Coach, Step 1, \$2,544

Step Team: Ms. Wilma Mitchell-Carter - Head Coach, Step 3, \$1,915

- q. Recommendations for CE/R Staff as per attached memo

- r. Recommendation for Volunteer BRHS Winter Coaches:

Girls Basketball - Ms. Emily Napolitano, Ms. Randi Temple & Mr. Jeff Baptiste

Bowling - Mr. Larry Havens & Mr. Jonathan Dansbury

Wrestling - Mr. Rob Roseboro, Mr. Jason Bataloni, Mr. Steve

Dybus, Mr. Brian Cassidy

Boys Basketball - Mr. Ad Gaffney, Mr. James Singleton, & Mr.

Dave Peterson

BRMS Wrestling - Mr. Andrew Arroyo

INFORMATION:

- s. Job Postings: Instructional 1:1 Aide full time, BRHS; 2nd Shift Custodian - BRSD; Health/PE Teacher 25.5 hrs/wk; Theater Business Advisor, BRHS; Assistant Winter Track Coach, BRHS

O. POLICY REPORT - Mr. Brian Lynch

Review of Policy 4181 (Travel Expense) and Policy 5190 (Drugs & Alcohol Policy). To be voted on at 11/28/07 meeting.

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P. TECHNOLOGY REPORT - Ms. Joann Dansbury

No report

Q. SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

No report

R. CE/R REPORT - Ms. Chris Trogdon

No report

S. BCC REPORT - Ms. Heather Cheesman

No report

T. PTO/PTA/ED FOUNDATION REPORT - Ms. Peggy Gens

No report

U. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Discussion of MIS Grade 5 trip to Commerce Bank Arts Centre in Sewell, NJ (this replaces the previously approved trip to Pennsbury Manor) and the Robotics Class Competition (no cost to Board)

V. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Board Secretary's Report (11/28/07)

Treasurer's Report (11/28/07)

List of Bills

Transportation Report (September)

2. a. Acceptance of Board Secretary's Monthly Certification, Budgetary Line Item Status

b. Certification of budgetary Major Account/Fund Status

3. **Ms. Lisa Korneluk** as Data Entry position, 12 month position, Secretary 1, Step 1, 25.5 hours per week, effective November 12, 2007

4. Transfer of Funds (will be distributed 11/28/07)

5. Travel Logs (will be distributed 11/28/07)

6. Termination of Mr. Sam Sager from the position of Custodian, effective 11/1/07

W. PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

To be distributed at the 11/28/07 meeting

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X. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

No reports

Y. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS - Dr. Monillas

1. Home Schooling Information
2. Reminder - 11/13/07 - 6:30 p.m. BRMS Library,
Budget Workshop Meeting, dinner at 6:00pm

Z. NEW HANOVER REPORT

No report

AA. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Jaclyn Gabauer attended the meeting. The Student Representatives plan to work with other schools through Student Councils to bring reports and questions to the Board.

BB. OLD BUSINESS

November 12th meeting scheduled with CE/R Council. A copy of the 2008-09 Budget will be distributed to the Board of Education.

CC. PUBLIC FORUM

As per the written request of Dr. Monillas, a public discussion was held with the Board of Education regarding the circumstances surrounding his resignation. The Board Solicitor, Stephen Mushinski, attended the meeting and responded to Board member questions and concerns.

Mr. Gabauer opened the discussion with a statement that Dr. Monillas had asked for the meeting to be held in public, and although it was uncomfortable for everyone, the board wished to ask the solicitor some questions and also make some statements to Dr. Monillas regarding his resignation.

Mr. Gabauer asked what the board could do to limit out of district travel by the Superintendent because attendance at meetings and conferences will no longer benefit the Bordentown Regional School District. Mr. Mushinski responded that the board can direct the Superintendent to remain in district and the board can elect to not approve professional development activities.

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CC. PUBLIC FORUM (continued)

Ms. Dansbury questioned if the Board could tell the Superintendent not to work in the event there were difficulties in the office. Mr. Mushinski replied that the Board could do that, but they would still have to pay the Superintendent his salary. There must be a rational reason for the action.

Ms. Cheesman commented that Dr. Monillas resigned saying the job was a "bad fit". She said that since the Camden County Vocational Technical School job application had a due date of June 18th, she felt it was possible that he was really leaving because he found a better job. She felt this was unfair to the board, as Dr. Monillas had been specifically asked if he was interviewing in other districts at the time he accepted the position in Bordentown and he had said "no". Mr. Mushinski agreed that it would be possible for people to conclude that Dr. Monillas always intended to leave. The Superintendent's contract is very basic - like most are - and has the unwritten expectation of good faith on the part of both sides.

Ms. Trogdon asked Ms. Ianoale, Business Administrator, what the climate was like in Central Office. Ms. Ianoale replied that it is very awkward as Dr. Monillas does not say anything to her when he comes in or when he leaves, and that it is difficult to have communication with him. Ms. Trogdon then also asked if the Board could send Dr. Monillas home. Mr. Mushinski again stated that the Board could do that, but they would have to have very good reasons, and probably still pay Dr. Monillas. Ms. Ianoale told the Board that she would continue to maintain a professional relationship with Dr. Monillas.

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CC. PUBLIC FORUM (continued)

Ms. Trogdon asked Mr. Mushinski what rights the Board had to control what is published in the newspaper about this situation. Mr. Mushinski said that the board can issue a press release of their own outlining the circumstances of Dr. Monillas' departure. They can also direct that all communication with the press go through the Board president, Mr. Gabauer. The question was again asked if the board could put Dr. Monillas on a paid leave and require that he not speak for the board.

The board asked how many vacation days were given up front, and if in the next contract with a new superintendent, there could be language that prorates those days if the superintendent leaves before a certain period. Mr. Mushinski stated that the board can put anything it wants in a contract, but reminded them that it is hard to find good people, and if the contract is too restrictive, no one may apply.

Ms. Cheesman asked if there is case law regarding not exercising good faith when signing a contract. Mr. Mushinski said that is not a breach of contract, and there is no legal action that can be taken.

Ms. Dansbury questioned the article that appeared in the "Burlington County Times" newspaper and requested that Dr. Monillas not mention that we have "schools in need of improvement" any more. She felt that statement was a misrepresentation of our district as only a small subgroup did not reach Adequate Yearly Progress on state tests.

Ms. Cheesman was concerned that the situation with Dr. Monillas would impact our ability to find a new superintendent. The board then turned its discussion to the hiring of an interim. The board can contract with an interim for as many days a week as they feel is necessary and draw up a contract to cover whatever requirements - such as attendance at board meetings - that they feel will be required.

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CC. PUBLIC FORUM (continued)

Dr. Monillas made a closing statement that he did not come to Bordentown Regional School District with an application open at another district. He did say that he had had several interviews during the period from July 1, 2007 and the time he resigned.

At the end of the Board's discussion, Mr. Gabauer asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

DD. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution

Mr. Lynch read the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Glenn and unanimously approved at 9:00 p.m.:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et. Seq. (Open Public Meetings Act) provides that the Bordentown Regional Board of Education may exclude the public from that portion of the meeting at which the Board of Education discusses certain matters as set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; and

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The Board returned to Open Session at 10:00 pm.

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DD. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Glenn, seconded by Mr. Lynch to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.
Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Gabauer, III
President

Peggy A. Ianoale
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

