

**FRANKLIN LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FRANKLIN LAKES, NEW JERSEY**

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Franklin Avenue Middle School  
755 Franklin Avenue, 8:00 PM  
Instrumental Music Room

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT**

2. **FLAG SALUTE**

3. **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. This does not extend to Board discussions of pending or active litigation, contract negotiation, and matters involving the confidentiality and privacy rights of students and employees. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted on the School website; published in the Board's designated newspapers: *The Ridgewood News* and *The Record*; and mailed to all persons, if any, who have requested said notice. In addition, please be aware that employees of this School District retain the right of privacy and shall retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey. The Board shall not be held liable for comments made by members of the public and, in order to protect the privacy rights of employees in the District, the Board shall not respond to statements made by the public of or about District employees.

Meetings of the Board are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the business of the schools and, therefore, are not public meetings, but meetings held in public. As a reminder, the Board of Education has a "BOE Suggestion Box" located on the District Website under "Board of Education." The Board welcomes your questions, input and suggestions.

4. **ROLL CALL**

Mr. Michael Ben-David, Ms. Christine Christopoul, Mr. Laurence Loprete, Ms. Susan McGowan, Mr. Robert Medeiros, Ms. Shirley O'Reilly, Ms. Kathie Schwartz, Mr. Craig Urciuoli, Ms. Jackie Veliky

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Loprete	Seconded by Ms. O'Reilly
To approve Minutes from the meetings on October 28, 2014	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **MOTION TO APPROVE BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORTS**

Motion by Mr. Loprete	Seconded by Mr. Urciuoli
To approve Board Secretary and Treasurer's Report for September 2014	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION**

The Board Secretary certifies that for the month ending September, 2014, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Board of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of September, 2014, the Board Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) did not reflect an over-expenditure in any of the major accounts or funds, and based on the appropriation balances reflected on this report and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion by Mr. Loprete	Seconded by Mr. Urciuoli
To approve Monthly Budget Status Certification ending September 2014	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

- Review Draft of Revised Mission Statement – Ms. Veliky read the revisions and the Board discussed
- Board Goals – Discuss Strategies and Benchmarks – Board discussed
- Report of Committees – 30 minutes (first meeting of the month)
  - Curriculum- Ms. Veliky updated the Board
  - Finance- Mr. Urciuoli updated the Board
  - Operations – Ms. Christopoul updated the Board
  - Negotiations – N/A
  - Personnel – N/A
  - Policy – N/A
  - Technology – Ms. Schwartz updated the Board

9. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS (30 MINUTES)**

Motion by Mr. Loprete	Seconded by Ms. O'Reilly
To approve motion to open the meeting to public discussion on agenda items	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

None

Motion by Mr. Loprete	Seconded by Ms. O'Reilly
To approve motion to close the public discussion and re-enter the regular public meeting.	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

10. RESOLUTIONS

<b>RESOLUTION #</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
<b>COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b>	
	<b>NONE</b>
<b>BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND OPERATIONS</b>	
<b>1BGO</b>	<b>AUTHORIZE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLABLE MATERIALS COLLECTION</b>
<b>Motion by Ms. Christopoul To approve 1BGO</b>	<b>Seconded by Mr. Urciuoli. Motion carried unanimously.</b>
<b>CURRICULUM &amp; INSTRUCTION</b>	
	<b>NONE</b>
<b>FINANCE</b>	
<b>1F</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF LINE ITEM TRANSFERS - OCTOBER 2014</b>
<b>2F</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS LISTS</b>
<b>3F</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH CENTRIS GROUP, LLC</b>
<b>Motion by Mr. Urciuoli To approve 1-3F</b>	<b>Seconded by Ms. Veliky. Motion carried unanimously.</b>
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	
<b>1P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES</b>
<b>2P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF MATERNITY LEAVE FOR ELIZABETH HARTMAN, MUSIC TEACHER, FRANKLIN AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>
<b>Motion by Mr. Ben-David To approve 1-3P</b>	<b>Seconded by Ms. Veliky. Motion carried unanimously.</b>



**FINANCE**

**#1F**

RESOLUTION NO.

**APPROVAL OF LINE ITEM TRANSFERS – OCTOBER, 2014**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the line item transfers for the months of October, 2014. In order to accomplish the aforesaid purpose the Business Administrator was authorized to transfer the amount of money into and out of the line items set forth on the attached schedule.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: November 11, 2014

Attachment

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**#2F**

RESOLUTION NO.

**APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS LIST**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves the payment of claims on the current bills list in the amount of \$3,142,027.46 for October, 2014.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: November 11, 2014

Attachment

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**#3F**

RESOLUTION NO.

**APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH CENTRIS GROUP, LLC**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves the contract with Centris Group, LLC to purchase IEP Direct software package at an initial annual fee of \$13,999.92 through June, 2015.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: November 11, 2014

Attachment

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**PERSONNEL**

**#1P**

RESOLUTION NO.

**APPROVAL OF STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves the attendance of staff members at the conferences listed on the attached summary.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: November 11, 2014

Attachment

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**#2P**

RESOLUTION NO.

**APPROVAL OF MATERNITY LEAVE FOR ELIZABETH HARTMAN,  
MUSIC TEACHER, FRANKLIN AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves a maternity leave for Elizabeth Hartman, Music Teacher at Franklin Avenue Middle School, from February 18, 2015 to May 20, 2015.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: November 11, 2014

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**POLICY**

RESOLUTION NO. NONE

- 11. **SUSPENSION REPORT** – Dr. Furnari reported one FAMS students suspended for technology improper use.
- 12. **ENROLLMENT REPORT** – Dr. Furnari reported enrollment down 5 students.
- 13. **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

I would like to preface my update this evening by saying thank you to all veterans who have served and to those who are currently serving our country as a member of the military. While Veterans Day gives us the opportunity to publicly offer words of thanks, your sacrifice is appreciated each and every day.

Vision Statement:

In pursuit of our district’s vision to build a learning environment where all children and adults take ownership to become imaginative, reflective, information age explorers and

contributors to society, by developing in students a life-long commitment to learning, a sense of personal and social responsibility, healthy self-esteem, and a respect and appreciation of diversity, I offer the following update on our progress toward District Goals.

Our first goal speaks to the importance of Student Achievement, assessment and program evaluation.

- Since our last meeting, schools celebrated Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbons are still visible outside of FAMS, and motivational speaker Gian Paul Gonzalez was very well received. FAMS students and their teachers are talking about what it means to be "All in" with regard to a commitment to be drug free in order to accomplish their goals.
- Mayor Bivona was invited to CRS to conduct a Town Hall meeting with 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, who asked very relevant questions about what it is like to be Mayor of Franklin Lakes. The students presented the Mayor with a wall-sized drawing that now hangs in his office at Borough Hall.
- The district's Independent Study program has officially begun. This enrichment program is open to all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at our three elementary schools. The program aims to provide students with opportunities to explore areas of personal interest with like-minded peers with teacher guidance.
- I continue to visit classrooms, and to experience first hand the interesting things our students are doing each day. Pre-Kindergarten students at HMR created creatures out of colorful paper, glue and markers that allowed them to use their imaginations in a very tactile manner. 4<sup>th</sup> grade students worked in small groups or read independently, choosing to sit on the classroom carpet, in beanbag chairs, or at tables in their classroom, and shared some interesting things about the activities in which they were engaged. At CRS, 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were working on choral pieces for the upcoming winter concert with their music teacher, and are already singing in 2 part partner songs, which is a great feat, this early in the school year. Mr. Solokas and I also shared some time with Pre-K and Kindergarten students in our CAPS program and learned a little about their day and classroom experiences as well.

Our second goal speaks to the professional development of administrators and staff in support of teaching and learning.

- Professional Development days took place on both October 31<sup>st</sup> at all schools, and at elementary schools on November 10<sup>th</sup> after students were dismissed. FAMS teachers will have their next professional development opportunity on November 17<sup>th</sup>. As you can imagine, teachers are working on preparing themselves for the upcoming PARCC assessment administration, as well as other initiatives such as training in addressing the needs of students with dyslexia, use of the ASPEN system, and other requirements and strategies. Teachers who attend workshops outside of the district are in turn sharing what they are learning with their colleagues both in their schools and across the district when applicable.

Our third goal is about communication.

- We continue to work on the possible implementation of full day Kindergarten. A fiscal analysis of the needs of this type of change to our program indicates that this would not be a cost prohibitive alternative for our district. Next steps include further discussions with administrators and with staff. As you know, I have been asked to make a recommendation in time for the next round of Kindergarten Registration activities, and will continue to update the Board as additional information becomes available.
- As you know, our district is one of approximately 204 school districts in our state that may receive a QSAC visit this year. We continue to wait for additional information from the NJ Department of Education regarding their plans to evaluate

all of the identified districts, or if that plan will be revised. I will continue to provide updates as we learn more.

- I hope that you have had the opportunity to read our first issues of School News and Views. Reading this digital publication is a great way to keep up with some of the happenings at our schools. The next issue will be available at the end of November.

Finally, Our fourth goal is related to Financial & Resource Management.

- Mr. Solokas continues to work with us to develop the budget for the 2015-2016 school year. Several budget scenarios that take a number of variables into consideration will be developed in order to ensure that we are ready for what lies ahead.
- As you know, the Operations Committee and district administrators have begun to develop an Annual Board Agenda. Once finalized and approved by the Board, this document will be used as a guide in the development of individual Board of Education Meeting Agendas, inclusive of periodic updates on the progress toward attainment of District Goals, the work of the Board, and NJDOE requirements. We anticipate the Annual Agenda's completion in the very near future.
- As you can see, we are now projecting the Board Agenda on the screen behind the Board for the information of those in attendance at our meeting. This is one of the steps the Board has taken to support its goal to "Go Green". We hope this is helpful to those who want to follow the agenda.

This concludes tonight's update. I am happy to address any questions you may have. Thank you.

14. **BOARD COMMENTS/NEW BUSINESS** – Mr. Urciuoli raised the topic of Campaign mailer of PTA involvement in recent BOE election.

15. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY TOPIC OF CONCERN**

Motion by Mr. Loprete	Seconded by Ms. O'Reilly
To approve motion to open the meeting to public discussion on any topic of concern.	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

None

Motion by Mr. Loprete	Seconded by Ms. O'Reilly
To approve motion to close the public discussion and re-enter the regular public meeting,	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

16. **PRIVATE WORK SESSION TIME:**

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act and the Franklin Lakes Board of Education reserve the right within the constraints of State Law to sit in Private Session; and WHEREAS, there now exists a need for this Board of Education to meet in Private Session;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Franklin Lakes Board of Education recess into Private Work Session to discuss exempt matters pertaining to personnel, legal matters and any such matters that may come before the Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public will be informed regarding the topics discussed in Private at a later date undetermined at this time.

OFFERED BY \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDED BY \_\_\_\_\_

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Loprete	Seconded by Ms. O'Reilly
To approve motion to adjourn meeting at 9:45 p.m.	<b>On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.</b>

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael Solokas  
Business Administrator/Board  
Secretary