

TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
108 North Clinton Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08609
BOARD CONFERENCE MEETING
Monday – April 4, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.
MINUTES

Completed April 6, 2011
Convened at 6:38 P.M.

Call to Order

Ms. Nicola Tatum, President, called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Nicola Tatum, President, led the salute to the flag.

Roll Call

Present:

T. Missy Balmir
Elizabeth Johnson
Harry Luna – arrived 6:49 p.m.
Toby Sanders
Donald O. Shelton
Algernon Ward
Nicola Tatum

Excused Absent:

L. Diane Campbell
Marcellus Smith

Interim Superintendent of Schools – Raymond Broach - Present

New Jersey Sunshine Law - Read by Jayne Howard, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

The New Jersey Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right to the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted on.

On the rules of this act, the Trenton Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting by publicizing the date, time and place, therefore posted in the Central Services Building, 108 North Clinton Avenue, City Clerk's Office, City Hall and the Times. Anyone whose name is on the mailing list should receive a notice.

Formal action will take place at this meeting.

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Adoption Of Agenda

President Tatum advised of the following changes to tonight's agenda:

- Add **Spotlight on the Schools** for Daylight/Twilight
- Add a Resolution for Trenton Public Schools to participate in the Trenton Litter March
- Add an item to Executive Session for discussion
- **Pull** Presentation on Enrollment/Registration

Motion by Mr. Ward and seconded by Ms. Balmir to adopt the agenda with the above stated changes. Agenda was adopted by all Board Members present.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
T. Missy Balmir	X		
L. Diane Campbell	absent		
Elizabeth Johnson	X		
Harry Luna	not present for vote		
Toby Sanders	X		
Donald O. Shelton	X		
Marcellus Smith	absent		
Algernon Ward	X		
Nicola Tatum	X		

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SCHOOLS

Principal Hope Grant from Daylight/Twilight spoke about the instructional cycle at the school and the educational partnerships that are available to assist students in obtaining their high school diploma. Students discussed the varied programs offered at the school, including culinary arts, non-traditional scheduling to fit students' needs, cosmetology, English as a Second Language and the twilight program.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

President Tatum advised that each speaker would have three minutes, and she read the following statement prior to public comment:

The Board President is the spokesperson for the Board of Education. It is not the role of the individual board members to respond to the public during Public Comment. This is the public's time. If the Board President feels that concerns need more clarification or background information for a factual response, it will be referred to the administration for a response.

Ms. Rocio Serrano, parent of a Washington School student, expressed concern about her child possibly being moved to Grant School. She stated this would necessitate him walking a longer distance to the new school, and she worried about his safety.

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The following members of the Trenton School Custodians Association spoke against the proposed privatization of the unit: Mr. Patrick Gore, Mr. Miguel Martinez and Mr. Larry Loper.

Mr. Waldemar Ronquillo, parent, expressed his concern about the safety of children who may be walking further to school next year based upon the proposed reconfigurations.

Ms. Charmaine Worrell, parent, asked the Board to reconsider the proposal to change Grant School's configuration to a K-5 school.

Ms. Marisol Ovalles, parent, also had concerns about removing the K-8 structure from some schools. She felt parents should have a choice in the matter.

Mr. Lully Alvarez, Grant School parent, also expressed his concern about proposed school reconfiguration and its affect on students' safety while walking to their new schools.

Ms. Leticia Young, Mott School parent, expressed her concern about the proposed reconfiguration of the schools. She felt there are better ways for the District to save money.

Ms. Tanisha Powell, President of the Trenton Business & Technical Association, spoke against the proposed privatization of support staff units.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

The following prospective vendors for Board Attorney were screened: Parker McCay and Schwartz Simon Edelstein & Celso, LLC. Board Members and the Superintendent had questions in the areas of:

- Personal residency
- Specialized services offered
- Success rate of cases litigated

The following prospective vendors for Security were screened: Tri-County Security and Bowles Corporate Services. Board Members and the Superintendent had questions in the areas of:

- Hourly rate paid and fringe benefits offered to employees
- Specialized training of security officers
- Experience in providing security to school districts
- Availability of full time positions
- Average hourly rate paid
- Ability to provide security services for special programs and events
- Preference in hiring current security officers
- Weapons training and metal detectors
- Persistent complaints about current security services

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- Sufficient level of staffing in the schools
- Number of security officers included in the RFP
- Bi-lingual skills of security officers
- Current level of staffing
- Communicating with Principals on the needs in the schools
- Shift times for security officers to ensure adequate coverage
- Scholarship opportunities for students
- Proper conduct by security officers
- Proper fingerprinting and background checks for security officers

Mr. David Gadallah, Executive Director for Management Information Systems, gave an update on Power School. He discussed the capabilities of the program and the tools it provides to staff and parents. Mr. Gadallah discussed the current transition from SASI to Power School, and he gave an update on the timeline for accomplishing this. Board Members had questions and comments in the following areas:

- Web-based access
- Smart phone access
- Challenges in meeting the timeline for total conversion to Power School
- Links to transportation data and student changes in registration/enrollment
- User friendly features for parents
- Number of years of data to be rolled over from SASI to Power School
- Student enrollment changes after the proposed restructuring
- Ability of Versatrans, Inform and Power School programs to work together
- Amount of time invested in training people in order to meet the set deadlines
- Improving/streamlining the registration process
- Continued technical support for Power School by Pearson
- Linking student performance data to teachers
- Capability of administrative staff to pull customized report data
- Access to records of past students
- Tracking and submission of demographic information
- Using Power School to communicate with Bi-lingual parents

SUPERINTENDENT’S REMARKS

Mr. Broach wished to thank Ms. Tatum, Ms. Balmir, Mr. Ward and Mr. Shelton for their support in meeting with the SDA regarding the District’s facilities, particularly TCHS-Main. He stated there are other schools that also need attention. Mr. Broach said that some parents, along with the TEA and TASA, have written a letter in data form to the State Legislature, the Governor and the SDA in an effort to keep attention focused on this issue. He thanked the public and the Board and all community organizations for their continued involvement in this issue.

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BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Johnson expressed her concern about the prospect of small children walking two miles to school. She felt it is wrong and unsafe, and she said the District should address this at the State level. Reverend Sanders observed that walking routes in the City are different from those in the suburbs. Mr. Luna wondered if the District could change the law in this regard. Mr. Broach suggested increased pressure from various community groups on State legislators to change the law.

Mr. Ward thanked everyone involved in the effort to make repairs to TCHS-Main. He stated a decision should be made in a few days, and he appreciated the efforts of TEA, City Council and the Mayor in this endeavor. He discussed what has occurred in the process of working with the SDA to obtain funding.

Ms. Tatum said she appreciates Administration's efforts in working with Legislators to get the repairs at TCHS completed. She reiterated her comments from the prior Board meeting relative to increased community involvement beyond the school district level.

Rev. Sanders stated he was moved by the comments from the custodial staff and the President of the Business & Technical Association. He said that no matter how Board Members may vote, the situation does affect them profoundly and they care deeply about the staff members in the District.

BOARD DISCUSSION & ACTION ON 4/4 RECOMMENDATIONS

Meeting Minutes:

March 14, 2011 Board Conference and Executive Session

March 28, 2011 Regular Board Meeting

Superintendent's Recommendations:

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Special Ed/Student Services (1)

Finance & Facilities (3)

Board Committee Reports:

Finance Committee, 3/9/11

There were no Board questions or comments.

Motion by Ms. Balmir and seconded by Mr. Luna to approve the Superintendent's Recommendations for April 4, 2011. With five (5) yes votes and two (2) no votes, the Superintendent's Recommendations for April 4, 2011 were **approved**.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
T. Missy Balmir	X		
L. Diane Campbell	absent		
Elizabeth Johnson	X		
Harry Luna	X		
Toby Sanders		X	
Donald O. Shelton	X		

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Marcellus Smith	absent	
Algernon Ward		X
Nicola Tatum	X	

ADDENDUM:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Resolution for **Trenton Public Schools Participation in the Trenton Clean Communities Litter March** on April 18, 2011 at no cost to the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT - SCHOOLS:

a. Resolution for Union Baptist Church Spring Into Action at Monument School

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Resolution for **Union Baptist Church Spring Into Action at Monument School** on April 9, 2011 at no cost to the Board. The Young Adult Ministry from Union Baptist Church, through the help of their congregation and with the aid of students and parents, will plant flowers and clean the grounds around the school.

3. FINANCE & FACILITIES

a. Appropriation Transfers – February 2011

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A requires that the Board of Education approve appropriation transfers; and;

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has authorized the budget adjusted to reflect the appropriation transfers;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trenton Board of Education, does ratify the transfers approved by the Superintendent of Schools. (**Attachment 3-A**)

b. A-148 Secretary’s Report – February 2011

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A-17-9, the Secretary of the Board of Education shall report to the Board at each regular meeting but no more than once each month, the amount of total appropriations and the cash receipts of each account, and the amount for which warrants have been drawn against each account and the amount of orders and contractual obligations been drawn against each account and the amount of orders and contractual obligations incurred and chargeable against each account since the date of the last report; and WHEREAS, the Commissioner has prescribed that such reporting take place on Form A-148;

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WHEREAS, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11©3, the secretary has certified that, as of the date of the report(s) no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trenton Board of Education accepts the above referenced reports and certifications and orders that they be attached to and made part of the record of this meeting;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in compliance with N.J.A.C 6A:23-2.11©4, the Board of Education certifies that, after review of the secretary’s monthly financial reports for February 2011, and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. **(Attachment 3-B)**

c. A-149 Treasurer’s Report – February 2011

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A-17-31 et seq. boards of education are required to have the appointed position of Treasurer of School Monies; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer shall serve in trust to receive and hold all school monies belonging to the district; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer shall report to the Board of Education on a monthly basis on the Form A-149, which is prescribed by the Commissioner of Education;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trenton Board of Education , for the period ending February 28, 2011, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, adopt the A-149 and cause it to become a part of the official minutes of this meeting.

(Attachment 3-C)

d. Staff Travel

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, ratified staff attendance/participation in the following professional conferences, workshops, seminars or trainings with the requirements, that staff turn-key as required by administration those issues addressed at the approved professional development events which have relevance to improving instruction and/or operation of the school district.

Applicant	Position	School	Purpose	Location	Date	Funds	Cost	GAAP Code
Bart LaGrassa	V. Principal	Day/Twi	Math in CTE Informational Workshop	Middlesex, NJ	4/12/2011		\$0	No cost to the Board
Wayne Fisher	Teacher	Day/Twi	Math in CTE Informational Workshop	Middlesex, NJ	4/12/2011		\$0	No cost to the Board
Deidre Fabisch	Teacher	Day/Twi	Math in CTE Informational Workshop	Middlesex, NJ	4/12/2011		\$0	No cost to the Board

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Darcy Coligan	Teacher	Stokes	Art Teachers P.D. Workshop	Ewing, NJ	4/15/2011		\$0	No cost to the Board
Natasha Boyd	Teacher	Washington	Visit classrooms to observe Reader's Workshop in an elementary and middle school setting	Robbinsville, NJ	4/14/2011		\$0	No cost to the Board

e. **Resolution to Reclassify Expenses**

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Resolution to **Reclassify Expenses** as follows: Reclassify \$597,700.42 from fund 20-250-100-500-0000-11-84 to fund 11-250-100-500-0000-11-84. This amount reflects the following expenses approved by the Board on February 28, 2011.

- Burlington County Special Services School District
Tuition: 2 students (AS, DF) \$36,766.00
Out of County Surcharge: 37 students \$78,244.42
- Mercer County Special Services School District - Regional Day School
Tuition: 1 student (AB) \$25,680.00
- Mercer County Special Services School District – Mercer High School
Tuition: 3 Students (EH, LD, KR) \$71,400.00
- Mercer County Special Services School District – Joseph Cappello School
Tuition: 1 student (LB) \$23,850.00
- Mercer County Special Services School District
Personal Assistants: 10 students (TJ, KEJ, LAR, NY, AF, RP, WSB, DA) \$361,760.00

f. **Resolution to Adopt 2011/2012 Capital Projects Budget**

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Resolution to **Adopt 2011/2012 Capital Projects Budget** and authorizes funding of **\$4,975,000** for the projects listed (**Attachment 3-F**).

g. **Professional Services Contract – Pronunciation Plus**

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Trenton Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Resolution for a **Professional Services Contract with Pronunciation Plus** to provide Speech Language services, per diem, for the remainder of the 2010/2011 school year at a cost not to exceed **\$8,000.00**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Trenton Board of Education, upon the direction of the Superintendent of Schools, directs administration to obtain a purchase order and have it provided to the vendor/consultant prior to receiving any goods or services from said vendor/consultant.

(Account Code: 11-000-219-320-0000-00-84)

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h. Request for Proposal (RFP) for an Organization to Provide Custodial Services

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Trenton Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorize the School Business Administrator/Purchasing Agent to prepare or have prepared a **Request for Proposal** to provide **Custodial Services** which shall include all items set forth in 18:18A-4.4.

i. Request for Proposal (RFP) for an Organization to Provide Transportation Services

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Trenton Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorize the School Business Administrator/Purchasing Agent to prepare or have prepared a **Request for Proposal** to provide **Transportation Services** which shall include all items set forth in 18:18A-4.4.

j. Request for Proposal (RFP) for an Organization to Provide Services for Personal Aides

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Trenton Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorize the School Business Administrator/Purchasing Agent to prepare or have prepared a **Request for Proposal** to provide **Special Services for Personal Aides** which shall include all items set forth in 18:18A-4.4.

k. Resolution for Automated Substitute Placement and Absence Management Services (AESOP) License Renewal for 2010-2011

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Resolution for **AESOP (Frontline) License Renewal for 2010-2011**, for travel expenses incurred and for the increase in the average number of employees needing replacement, at a cost not to exceed **\$10,093.00**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Trenton Board of Education, upon the direction of the Superintendent of Schools, directs administration to obtain a purchase order and have it provided to the vendor/consultant prior to receiving any goods or services from said vendor/consultant.

(Account Code: 11-000-251-340-0000-00-52)

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Ward and seconded by Ms. Balmir to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session. Board Member Shelton voted no, all other Board Members voted to move to Executive Session.

Ms. Tatum read the Executive Session Resolution:

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WHEREAS, The Board of Education must discuss subjects concerning personnel matters, negotiations, and legal matters;

WHEREAS, The aforesaid subjects are not appropriate subjects to be discussed in public meeting; and,

WHEREAS, The aforesaid subjects to be discussed are within the exemptions which are permitted to be discussed and acted upon in closed executive session pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, it is therefore

RESOLVED, That the aforesaid subjects shall be discussed in closed executive session by this Board and administrative staff at the conclusion of the public segment of this meeting, and information pertaining thereto will be made available to the public as soon thereafter as possible and once the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exist.

ADJOURN 9:42 p.m.

REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Open Public Meeting reconvened at 10:13 p.m.

1. TB&T (Dispatchers) vs. TBOE

Docket No. AR-2011-084

Reimbursement \$962.50 to Arbitrator Bonnie Siber Weinstock

Motion by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Balmir to pay the above legal reimbursement. Motion was **approved** by all Board Members present.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
T. Missy Balmir	X		
L. Diane Campbell	absent		
Elizabeth Johnson	X		
Harry Luna	X		
Toby Sanders	X		
Donald O. Shelton	X		
Marcellus Smith	absent		
Algernon Ward	X		
Nicola Tatum	X		

3. Settlement Agreement

Trenton Community Charter School, Letitia Foreman

& TBOE in the matter of TCCS vs. L.F. for A.H.

OAL Docket No. 1835-2011

Agency Ref. No. 2011-16891

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Motion by Ms. Balmir and seconded by Mr. Ward to approve the above Settlement Agreement. Motion was **approved** by all Board Members present.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
T. Missy Balmir	X		
L. Diane Campbell	absent		
Elizabeth Johnson	X		
Harry Luna	X		
Toby Sanders	X		
Donald O. Shelton	X		
Marcellus Smith	absent		
Algernon Ward	X		
Nicola Tatum	X		

4. TB&T (Attendance Officers) vs. TBOE
Reclassification of Positions

Motion by Mr. Luna and seconded by Ms. Balmir to approve the above Reclassification of Positions. Motion was **approved** by all Board Members present.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
T. Missy Balmir	X		
L. Diane Campbell	absent		
Elizabeth Johnson	X		
Harry Luna	X		
Toby Sanders	X		
Donald O. Shelton	X		
Marcellus Smith	absent		
Algernon Ward	X		
Nicola Tatum	X		

2. Roberts vs. TBOE
Claim No. 07E003059H/File No. 4707-C-SB
Reimbursement \$925.00 to Lenox, Socey, Formidoni, Brown,
Giordano, Cooley & Casey

Motion by Mr. Ward and seconded by Mr. Luna to pay the above legal reimbursement. Motion was **approved** by all Board Members present.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
T. Missy Balmir	X		
L. Diane Campbell	absent		
Elizabeth Johnson	X		
Harry Luna	X		
Toby Sanders	X		

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Donald O. Shelton	X
Marcellus Smith	absent
Algernon Ward	X
Nicola Tatum	X

5. **2006 RIF Settlement Agreement**
TEA et al vs. TBOE
OAL Docket No. EDU 08748-2006S
Agency Ref. No. 342-9/06

It was motioned and properly seconded to approve the above Settlement Agreement. Motion was **approved** by all Board Members present.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
T. Missy Balmir	X		
L. Diane Campbell	absent		
Elizabeth Johnson	X		
Harry Luna	X		
Toby Sanders	X		
Donald O. Shelton	X		
Marcellus Smith	absent		
Algernon Ward	X		
Nicola Tatum	X		

Motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 p.m.

ADJOURN 11:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jayne S. Howard

Jayne S. Howard
Business Administrator/Board Secretary