

TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
108 North Clinton Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08609
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday – July 28, 2011 – 5:00 P.M.
MINUTES

Completed July 29, 2011
Convened at 5:10 P.M.

Call to Order

Rev. Toby Sanders, President, called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Rev. Toby Sanders, President, led the salute to the flag.

Roll Call

Present:

T. Missy Balmir
Sasa Olessi Montaña
Jason Redd
Jane Rosenbaum
Donald O. Shelton
Nicola Tatum – arrived 5:17 p.m.
Mary Taylor-Hayes
Algernon Ward – arrived 5:30 p.m.
Toby Sanders

Interim Superintendent of Schools – Raymond Broach - Absent

New Jersey Sunshine Law - Read by Board President Sanders

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 Sanders advised that tonight’s agenda would be amended to include a presentation by Mr. Ward regarding potential funding at the high school. He stated this was postponed from the July 21 Board meeting. It was motioned by Mr. Redd, seconded by Ms. Balmir and agreed upon by all Board Members to amend the agenda as requested.

Motion by Mr. Redd and seconded by Ms. Taylor-Hayes to adopt the agenda. Agenda was adopted by all Board Members present.

| <u>ROLL CALL</u> | YES | NO | ABSTAIN |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| T. Missy Balmir | X | | |
| Sasa Olessi Montaña | X | | |
| Jason Redd | X | | |
| Jane Rosenbaum | X | | |
| Donald O. Shelton | X | | |
| Nicola Tatum | not present for vote | | |
| Mary Taylor-Hayes | X | | |
| Algernon Ward | not present for vote | | |
| Toby Sanders | X | | |

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Emerson Simmons had concerns about funding for the Alternative School. He also felt that the amount of spending for Special Ed requires that the Administration provide a detailed breakdown of expenses and a report on results achieved. He said that an audit of Special Ed should be done.

Mr. Larry Loper Sr., Head Custodian, stated that he was waiting for a prepared statement from his Association, and he asked that his comments be deferred.

BOARD DISCUSSION & ACTION

Allocation of Additional State Funding:

Mr. Redd stated that he participated in the meetings with the Trenton School Custodians’ Association (TSCA) over the last week, and he appreciates the leadership of President Sanders and the hard work that everyone on all sides has done to come to an agreement.

Ms. Montaña agreed with Mr. Redd, and she said that, as a new Board Member, she was pleased with the process and how everyone worked together to reach an agreement. She thanked Rev. Sanders for his participation and leadership in this matter. Ms. Montaña said she agrees with Mr. Simmons’ public comments, and she asked State Monitor Mark Cowell if he could make public the detail on the \$1.9 million Special Ed spending of the additional State Aid, as Board Members were provided. Mr. Cowell agreed to do so.

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Ms. Balmir also thanked Rev. Sanders for his leadership in the dialogue with the TSCA, and she wished to thank the Association members for their efforts.

Rev. Sanders thanked everyone for their hard work over the last week, and he particularly credited Mr. Redd and Ms. Balmir for their efforts and participation. He said they represent the nexus of thinking that is required to work together going forward. He also thanked the new Board Members for their involvement in this process. Rev. Sanders wished to thank publicly Superintendent Broach for his dedication and professionalism throughout the negotiations. He said he is honored and inspired by this. He also thanked Mr. Sid Lehmann, attorney for the TSCA, for his passion and his courage in challenging the Board, for providing information in a very difficult context, and for being a worthy and honorable advocate for the Association. Rev. Sanders gave his highest regard and appreciation to the Custodians, particularly the Head Custodians, for their efforts. He discussed the impact of past staffing reductions in the Association and how work is still being completed. He stated the Association modeled community in the negotiations process.

Rev. Sanders addressed the earlier public comments of Mr. Simmons, and he recalled the presentation from the previous Board Meeting by Ms. Pearl Charatz, Executive Director for Special Ed. He advised Mr. Simmons that this information is available to him, and he said Ms. Charatz made an extensive presentation during which difficult matters were discussed. He stated that several Board Members also share Mr. Simmons' concerns about Special Ed spending, and that they are trying to be transparent regarding how money is allocated to this area.

Rev. Sanders stated there are real needs in Curriculum. He stated that progress has been made in Literacy, but there are also pressing needs in Math. He said that ways to address student needs in Curriculum were discussed in the negotiations process, and he stated that the sacrifices of the Custodians will result in more funds being directed to students.

Rev. Sanders wished to thank Business Administrator Ms. Howard for her willingness to come in on her vacation to work on the spending recommendations. He also thanked Ms. Smallwood-Johnson, Executive Director for Human Resources, Negotiations and Legal Affairs, for her assistance in negotiating the contracts with the unions three years ago. He thanked her for the calm and reason she brought to the latest negotiations with the TSCA.

Lastly, Rev. Sanders stated that Mr. Cowell has agreed in principle to the Superintendent's recommendation being made this evening. He thanked Mr. Cowell for this gesture of cooperation from the State, and for his participation in the negotiations process.

At this time, Mr. Loper read the prepared statement from the TSCA. The statement discussed the appreciation of the TSCA for the efforts of the Board in the negotiations process, which was conducted in good faith and which allows the Superintendent's Recommendation that jobs of the existing Custodians be preserved without allocating any additional State Aid beyond his initial recommendation.

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Rev. Sanders asked if there are any Board questions on the Superintendent’s Recommendation for spending the allocation of additional State Aid. Ms. Montaña asked if tonight’s recommendation differs from that of the previous week in any areas other than Custodial. Ms. Howard replied that everything other than Custodial is the same. Clarification was given on the \$100,000 being proposed for Security. This will cover the needs at the Alternative School and the former Jefferson School, which will be used for former students of Trenton Community Charter School. Ms. Montaña asked if the Board would be voting on the Recommendations in their entirety. Rev. Sanders stated they would, although Board Members are welcome to vote their wishes.

Motion by Mr. Redd and seconded by Ms. Tatum to approve the Superintendent’s Recommendation for the anticipated use of Additional State Aid for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 in the amount of \$10,033,047. With eight (8) Yes votes, five (5) No votes and one (1) Abstention, the Superintendent’s Recommendation was **approved**.

| <u>ROLL CALL</u> | YES | NO | ABSTAIN |
|-------------------------|------------|---|----------------|
| T. Missy Balmir | X | | |
| Sasa Olessi Montaña | X | Alternative School | |
| Jason Redd | X | | |
| Jane Rosenbaum | X | | |
| Donald O. Shelton | X | | |
| Nicola Tatum | X | | |
| Mary Taylor-Hayes | X | Security | |
| Algernon Ward | | | X |
| Toby Sanders | X | Alternative School Security Technology - Phones | |

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Trenton Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the anticipated use of Additional State Aid for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 in the amount of \$10,033,047 for the allocations indicated (**Attachment 1 to the minutes**).

PRESENTATION

Mr. Ward gave a Buildings & Grounds Committee Report (handout attached) relative to reducing the District’s environmental footprint, and funding plans for TCHS-Main through collaboration with The Sustainable Energy Funding Program for Health and Education Facilities. He stated he would like to present the program in detail at a Facilities Advisory Board (FAB) meeting. It was motioned by Mr. Redd and seconded by Ms. Balmir to accept the Buildings & Grounds Committee Report. Ms. Montaña asked for discussion of the report and wished to know where else in New Jersey the proposed scope of work is being done. Mr. Ward responded that the developer of the program would be able to provide more detail on this at a FAB meeting.

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Rev. Sanders took the opportunity to state that each Board Member will be making public Committee Reports throughout the upcoming year. This will provide the public with information on behind-the-scenes workings of the Board.

Mr. Ward wished to add that the Buildings & Grounds Committee has also done some work on an energy audit for the entire District, which will be forthcoming with details on energy savings and school-based recycling savings. Rev. Sanders thanked Mr. Ward and asked for a roll call on Mr. Redd’s motion to accept the Buildings & Grounds Committee Report.

With eight (8) Yes votes, the Buildings & Grounds Committee Report was **accepted**.

| <u>ROLL CALL</u> | YES | NO | ABSTAIN |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| T. Missy Balmir | X | | |
| Sasa Olessi Montaña | X | | |
| Jason Redd | X | | |
| Jane Rosenbaum | X | | |
| Donald O. Shelton | X | | |
| Nicola Tatum | X | | |
| Mary Taylor-Hayes | X | | |
| Toby Sanders | X | | |

Mr. Ward asked for the Board’s consensus to call a special meeting of the FAB for further public discussion due to the extent of the material being presented. Mr. Redd asked if this would be a meeting with stakeholders, interested Board Members, members of the Leadership Team and the community, after which a Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting would be held to discuss the ideas presented and recommendations moving forward. Mr. Ward stated that is correct. Rev. Sanders advised that only four Board Members could be present at the FAB meeting, and that a briefer presentation would be made at a Regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Redd motioned, and Ms. Taylor-Hayes seconded, for the FAB to convene a special meeting, after which a report will be made to the Board. The motion was **approved** by all Board Members.

| <u>ROLL CALL</u> | YES | NO | ABSTAIN |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| T. Missy Balmir | X | | |
| Sasa Olessi Montaña | X | | |
| Jason Redd | X | | |
| Jane Rosenbaum | X | | |
| Donald O. Shelton | X | | |
| Nicola Tatum | X | | |
| Mary Taylor-Hayes | X | | |
| Algernon Ward | X | | |
| Toby Sanders | X | | |

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Mr. Shelton spoke about the challenges facing the District in relying on State Aid to operate and to complete projects such as addressing the construction needed at TCHS-Main. He lamented the poor condition of TCHS-Main and asked for the public's support in getting the needed work done. Mr. Shelton also expressed his frustration with the delay in resolving this issue at the State level. Rev. Sanders thanked Mr. Shelton for his passion and his service.

Mr. Redd made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Tatum. All Board Members were in favor, none opposed.

ADJOURN 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jayne S. Howard

Jayne S. Howard
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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Attachment 1

ANTICIPATED USE OF ADDITIONAL STATE AID FROM FY2011-2012
 REVISED/ 7/27/11

| ANTICIPATED USE OF ADDITIONAL STATE AID FROM/FY2011-2012 | LOCATION | RATIONAL | SALARIES | BENEFITS | OTHER | REDUCTION | TOTAL |
|--|-----------------------|---|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Custodians | Buildings & Grounds | Retain Custodians in all schools and service buildings | | | | | \$4,262,638 |
| Alternative School | Special Services | Program to accommodate sixth, seventh and eighth grade students with behavioral difficulties and 45 day placements when suspended or while awaiting placement by the CST. | | | | | |
| Child Study Teams (2) | Special Services | Additional teams needed for charter school students/lower case load | \$1,630,671 | 546,275 | 134,163 | (351,000) | \$1,960,109 |
| Special Education Teachers (17) | Special Services | Additional Staff needed to support IEP's | 500,000 | 167,500 | | | \$667,500 |
| Special Education Paras (14) | Special Services | Additional Staff needed to support IEP's | \$1,190,000 | 398,650 | | | \$1,588,650 |
| Technology | Technology Department | Purchase ID phones to support schools. | \$490,000 | 164,150 | | | \$654,150 |
| Technology | Technology Department | Replace student computers and purchase smart boards per District wide Technology plan | | | 300,000 | | \$300,000 |
| Security | Student Services | Additional funding for security guards for Alternative school. | | | 500,000 | | \$500,000 |
| TOTAL | | | \$3,810,671 | \$1,276,574.8 | \$1,034,163.0 | (\$351,000.0) | \$10,033,047 |
| ADDITIONAL FUNDING | | | | | | | \$ 10,033,047 |
| DIFFERENCE | | | | | | | \$ 0 |