

TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
108 North Clinton Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08609
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Monday – May 9, 2011 – 5:00 P.M.
MINUTES

Completed May 10, 2011
Convened at 5:10 P.M.

Call to Order

Ms. Nicola Tatum, President, called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

Present:

T. Missy Balmir
Harry Luna – arrived 5:36 p.m.
Jane Rosenbaum
Toby Sanders
Donald O. Shelton
Algernon Ward
Nicola Tatum

Excused Absent:

Elizabeth Johnson
L. Diane Campbell

Acting 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

Motion by Reverend Sanders and seconded by Ms. Balmir to adopt the agenda. With five (5) Yes votes and one (1) abstention, the agenda was adopted.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

President Tatum advised that each speaker would be allotted three minutes.

Ms. Naomi Johnson-LaFleur, President of the Trenton Education Association (TEA), welcomed new Board Member Dr. Rosenbaum. Ms. Johnson-LaFleur expressed her concern about the District's three-year pattern of laying off workers, downsizing, outsourcing, sub-contracting and privatizing. She stated this has affected hundreds of employees including teachers, secretaries, security officers and food service workers, and that it will now affect paraprofessionals, bus drivers and custodians. Ms. Johnson-LaFleur felt this compromises the quality and safety of services provided to students. She stated that the 2011-2012 Budget includes \$7.9 million in jobs bills money, provided for the sole purpose of saving and creating education jobs. Ms. Johnson-LaFleur expressed her concern regarding the use of Federal funds. She asked for transparency from Administration regarding the Budget, and she asked the Board to vote No on the proposed reductions in force on tonight's agenda.

Ms. Betty Glenn, President of the Trenton Paraprofessionals Association (TPA), also welcomed Dr. Rosenbaum to the Board. She addressed the proposed abolishment of 22 paraprofessional positions; and she said that 15 of those positions are mandated by the State as 1:1 positions, which would leave only seven 504 positions eligible for privatization. Ms. Glenn enumerated the qualifications necessary for, and the services provided by, the 1:1 paraprofessionals.

Ms. Susan Nardi, the Trenton Business & Technical representative from New Jersey Education Association, felt that transportation routes for special needs children should be kept in house and not privatized. Ms. Nardi observed that the District is selling its buses, and she said there is nothing the bus drivers could give back in negotiations that would

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offset the money raised by the sale of the buses. She also had concerns about the short timeframe in which to privatize prior to summer school and the start of the regular school year. She stated that every position in the Transportation Department is being proposed for abolishment, and she does not represent any other district that has no one in Transportation. Ms. Nardi discussed the advantages of having an in-District Transportation staff for the purposes of bus routing and responding to parent complaints.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Superintendent's Recommendations:

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment (1)
Human Resources (2)

Reverend Sanders asked that the reappointment of the Coordinator of Safe & Healthy Schools Grant be **pulled** from the TASA Reappointment List (Human Resources Attachment 2-e). He felt this matter needed further discussion in Executive Session. Reverend Sanders also asked about the appointment of the Principal for the proposed Alternative Middle School. Ms. Tatum recalled this item was pulled at the April 18 meeting and has not been placed back on the agenda for Board consideration. Reverend Sanders asked for more discussion on this item also in Executive Session. Lastly, Reverend Sanders asked that the Reappointment List for Confidential Administrators (Human Resources Attachment 2-h) be **pulled** for further discussion in Executive Session.

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Sidney Lehmann, attorney for the Trenton School Custodians Association, expressed concern about the proposed abolishment of 128 custodians' positions. He said that no custodians had received a required Rice Notice, and he wondered how the Board could take action under those circumstances. Ms. Tatum advised Mr. Lehmann this would be addressed in Executive Session.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 5:30 p.m.

REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Open Public Meeting reconvened at 6:12 p.m.

At this time, President Tatum advised that after discussion in Executive Session, the Board has decided to **pull** Human Resources Attachment 2-h (Reappointment List of Confidential Administrators), **pull** Reappointment of Coordinator of Safe & Healthy Schools Grant on Human Resources Attachment 2-e (TASA Reappointment List), and **pull** all Abolishment of Positions (Human Resources Item 2).

Ms. Tatum invited Mr. Lehmann back to the podium to continue addressing the Board. Mr. Lehmann thanked the Board for pulling the abolishment of all custodial positions. He asked

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the Board to consider that the custodians' budget has gone down the last three or four years to its current level of approximately \$8 million. He felt that the figure of \$4 million to provide custodial services was backed into based upon State revenues, the obligations to pay charter schools and the money received from Federal funding of other jobs. Mr. Lehmann stated that, considering State statutes and codes that must be followed regarding facilities planning, this cannot be done for \$4 million. He discussed many advantages of keeping the current custodians and the disadvantages of privatizing. He hoped the union and the Board could come to a mutually agreeable resolution to this issue.

At this time, Ms. Tatum asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's Recommendations.

Motioned by Ms. Balmir and seconded by Mr. Luna to approve the Superintendent's Recommendations. With six (6) yes votes, and two (2) abstentions, the Superintendent's Recommendations were **approved**.

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

** It is noted for the record the Reverend Sanders abstained from the appointment of an Elementary Teacher Grade 2, assignment to be determined, on the TEA Reappointment List (Human Resources Attachment 2-e).

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT

a. Student Study Trips

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following field trips:

Agen.	Applicant	School	Destination	Purpose	Type Edu/ Inct.	No. of Stud- ents	Date	Funds	Cost	GAAP Code
Orig. app'd 3/28/11 REVISE	Melda Grant	TCHS/ SBYS	BYSP PLP Teen Parent	Students will demonstrate critical life skills in order to be functional members of society	Edu/Inct	25	5/9/2011		\$775 REVISE	20-470- 200-891- 0000-11-05 REVISE

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2. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Approval of Restructuring Plan for 2011 -2012 school year

- a. Approval of the Restructuring/Turn Around Schools Plan for the 2011-2012 school year for Columbus and Kilmer Elementary Schools. (**Attachment 1 – under separate cover**)

2. Abolishment of Positions - PULLED

BE IT RESOLVED that the Trenton Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the following abolishment of positions effective July 1, 2011:

<u>Title</u>	<u># Positions</u>	<u>Location</u>
All Custodian Positions	128	Buildings & Grounds
Bus Drivers (12 Months)	6	Transportation Department
Bus Drivers (10 Months)	9	Transportation Department
Bus Drivers (Part-time)	5	Transportation Department
Bus Aides	7	Transportation Department
Supervisor of Transportation	1	Transportation Department
Transportation Dispatcher	1	Transportation Department
Admin I Secretary	1	Transportation Department
Admin I Secretary	1	Buildings & Grounds (Custodians)
Junior Accountant	1	Payroll Department
Fiscal Analysis/Internal Auditor	1	Accounting Department
Senior Payroll Specialist	1	Payroll Department
LDTC	1	Special Services
Social Worker	2	Early Childhood

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Social Workers	2	Special Services
Counselor Leader of Guidance	1	TCHS-Chambers
Teacher Leader of School Operations	1	TCHS-Chambers
In-School Suspension Teachers	3	TCHS-Chambers
Paraprofessionals (1:1 & 504)	22	Districtwide
Vice Principal	1	Grant Elementary School
Vice Principal	1	Mott Elementary School

3. Creation of Positions

BE IT RESOLVED that the Trenton Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the following creation of positions effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012:

<u>Position</u>	<u># Positions</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Assistant Comptroller Grants & Title Funding	1	Turn Around Schools	CFA
Coordinator of Safe & Healthy School Grant	1	Buildings & Grounds	TASA
Supervisor of Special Education	1	Curriculum/Instruction & Assessment	TASA
Psychologist	3	Special Services	TEA
Compliance Specialist	1	Turn Around Schools	BST
Instructional Coaches	2	Turn Around Schools	TEA
Admin I Secretary	1	Dunn Middle School	TESA

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4. Re-appointment List 2011 – 2012 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED that the Trenton Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the re-appointment of the following staff for the 2011-2012 school year :

(Attachment - 2)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| a. Business & Technical | e. TASA (<u>PULL</u> Coordinator of Safe Schools Grant) |
| b. Paraprofessionals | f. TEA |
| c. TESA | g. Confidential Secretaries |
| d. Mechanics & Laborers | h. Confidential Administrators - <u>PULL</u> |

It was motioned and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting. All Board Members were in favor, none opposed.

ADJOURN 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jayne S. Howard

Jayne S. Howard
Business Administrator/Board Secretary