

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The December 15, 2009 meeting of the Alexandria Township Board of Education was called to order by President Patrick D. McGuinness at 7:32 PM.

2. NOTIFICATION OF MEETING

This meeting was properly advertised according to the Open Public Meeting Act (P.L. 1975:31) in the Hunterdon County Democrat on May 7, 2009, to begin at 7:30 PM.

3. ROLL CALL

Linda K. Adams - P	Peter Pfreundschuh - P
Francis L. Guenther - P	Scott A. Saccal - P
Steven Hill - P	Shawn J. Shapiro - P
Douglas E. Linden, Jr. - P	Frances R. Wood - P
Patrick D. McGuinness - P	

4. BOARD STATEMENT

The mission of the Alexandria Township School District is to achieve academic excellence through high quality instruction, a positive learning environment, and a strong partnership among staff members, family and community. We are committed to an inclusive educational program that recognizes individual differences and encourages each child to reach his or her potential. We believe that the desire for life-long learning, the development of positive character, and the development of a positive self-concept are essential outcomes of the school experience.

5. FLAG SALUTE

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. BOARD PRESIDENT

President McGuinness congratulated Dr. Jennings and the administrative team for passing NJQSAC.

President McGuinness advised that the Superintendents and Board Presidents of the Delaware Valley region will meet on January 21, 2010, to discuss curriculum and other topics of mutual interest to the region.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ursula Accumanno, Lester D. Wilson School art teacher and librarian, advised the Board that her students were learning about photography. Two of her students held up some of their work and explained how they made the photograms. Mrs. Accumanno then showed a literacy enrichment video taken by the students. Mrs. Accumanno said that Bill Martin, the husband of retired teacher Cathleen Martin, and a professional photographer, brought in his camera collection for the students to see. Also, the Lifetouch photographer showed the students how to take digital photographs.

The Board asked the students questions about their photography and thanked Mrs. Accumanno and the students for their presentation.

Dr. Matthew J. Jennings, Superintendent of Schools, reported on the following:

1. Dr. Jennings advised that the strategic plan will be ready for review in April, 2010.
2. Dr. Jennings advised that the Board newsletter will be mailed to residents soon.
3. Status of Instructional Materials Complaint: 2 received
4. Dr. Jennings reminded the Board and the audience that a Superintendent's Chat is scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday, December 16, 2009, in the Alexandria Middle School library/media center at 10:00 AM.

9. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BD SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ms. Barbara E. Prowker, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, reported the following:

1. 2010-11 budget preparation underway
2. Ms. Prowker reported that she attended a State meeting today on the 2010-11 budget preparation. Ms. Prowker advised that districts should budget for flat state aid and also consider a budget without the current year federal stimulus funds. She also advised that it looks like there is a really good chance that the budget will not be voted on in April for districts that do not exceed the "CAP".

The new Governor's address is scheduled for March 16, 2010, with state aid figures being released not-later-than 2 days after the address.

3. NJQSAC monitoring was conducted on November 24, 2009 by the New Jersey Department of Education's personnel.
4. As required, the mid-year review of the 2009-10 budget has been completed.

5. Aurora Pipeling from the Work-Family Connection has requested to use our facility to provide after school enrichment programs. I advised Ms. Pipeling that the use of facility fee of \$65/hour would be assessed to run these programs because students will pay to participate. Ms. Pipeling is seeking the Board's support for the programs and is requesting that the use of facility fee be waived. She will address the Board under the Public Input section of the agenda.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pfreunds Schuh - Education Foundation
Saccal - Personnel
Shapiro - Buildings and Grounds
Shapiro - Delegate Assembly
Linden - Negotiations

11. PUBLIC INPUT

Aurora Pipeling, Work-Family Connection/After School Enrichment Programs:
Ms. Pipeling described the enrichment programs that Work-Family Connection would like to offer to the students in the time slot for the after-care program. Ms. Pipeling explained that there would be a fee imposed for those students who would like to participate to cover the cost for the presenters of each program. Ms. Pipeling said that Work-Family does not make a profit from these programs. Ms. Pipeling requested that Work-Family be permitted to run the enrichment programs without the use of facilities fee being assessed. The Board asked questions and then advised Ms. Pipeling that they would consider her request.

Harry Fuerstenberger, Mayor of Alexandria Township, thanked the Board and the staff, stating that Alexandria Schools are one of the best and cleanest. Mayor Fuerstenberger said that the Board is making a mistake getting rid of the lowest paid staff and that he is opposed to replacing the custodial staff with a private company. Mayor Fuerstenberger said that the Township is concerned.

A gentleman asked if the Board was going to put a price tag on security for the students.

Marlene Blankenship advised that she has collected 180 signatures from Township residents opposed to privatizing the custodial services.

Mary Wasik said that the Board was putting people out of work. She said that the Board should get rid of Dr. Jennings and out source him.

Beth Harding asked about the reference checks for the lowest bidder for the custodial services. Ms. Harding said that the company has a lot of law suits against them.

Michele Baran asked who will show up at community Day?

Jim Kiernan asked if sick days are given to the custodians by contract. President McGuinness said "Yes". Mr. Kiernan suggested decreasing administration instead of out sourcing the custodial staff.

B.J. Jacobson said that her children love the after care program provided by the Work-Family Connection and that she does not think they should be charged an additional fee to provide enrichment programs.

B.J. Jacobson asked why parents had to download an absentee note when their children were absent. Dr. Jennings said that parents did not have to use the form on the web site and that they could simply provide a note when their child was absent.

Patsy Mahler asked if Work-Family Connection already pays to use the facilities? Dr. Jennings said "Yes". Mrs. Mahler said that she does not think they should be charged more to provide enrichment programs.

Colleen Le Boeuf said that the recent state review of the District's buildings showed how good the facilities look. Mrs. Le Boeuf said that the custodial staff are family.

Beth Harding asked how the Board approved the social studies textbook without Curriculum Committee review. President McGuinness said the book was reviewed and recommended by the staff and the textbook was available for the Board's review.

Dawn Hammerstone, wife of Kevin Hammerstone, told the Board that if her husband loses his job, they will lose their health benefits, their home, and her business.

Carol Rocha, a township resident who works at Hunterdon Central Regional High School, advised that Hunterdon Central out-sourced custodial services at one time. There were a lot of problems and they went back to their own custodial staff.

Jim Kiernan asked how much time the students have been working on the social studies assignment.

Someone said that the issue with the textbook is that it brings the Islamic religion to light.

Someone asked if Mr. Chabot, the resident chosen to be on the committee reviewing the 6th grade social studies text, has children in the District. Dr. Jennings said that he does not, but that Mr. Chabot was a social studies teacher for 27 years and is well qualified to review the text.

Someone asked if the audience would get to see how each Board Member votes on the custodial services motion? President McGuinness advised that all votes are taken in public as required by law.

Frank Guenther addressed new business at this time before Mayor Fuerstenberger left the meeting. Dr. Guenther advised that the Communication Committee was recommending that a Board Member serve as a liaison between the Board and the Township Committee.

Dr. Guenther asked Mayor Fuerstenberger if the Township would plow the School District's parking lots. Mayor Fuerstenberger said that he would discuss the request with the Road Department supervisor.

Mayor Fuerstenberger introduced Gabe Plumber, the newly-elected Township Committee Member.

A gentleman said he spoke to Mr. McGrath and to Mr. Pawlowski regarding the Islamic assignment. He said that he wants his son put in another class.

President McGuinness advised that the process for parents if they have a concern with a teacher/assignment is that they need to address the matter with the teacher first, then Mr. Pawlowski, and lastly with Dr. Jennings. President McGuinness asked the gentlemen if he had followed these steps? It appeared that Dr. Jennings had not be approached regarding this matter.

Cara Smith said that the slogan used to pass a referendum "Your Vote, Their Future" seemed to be apropos in this situation with the custodians.

Mike Mahler said that he expects teachers to do their best and that they can use other tools to teach besides textbooks.

The question was asked if as much time will be spent on other religions as has been spent on Islamic.

A gentleman said that he objects to the 6th grade social studies curriculum because it treads on religious teaching.

Lisa Clough said that her sons are learning about religion in high school and in college.

Lisa Englehardt asked if the Board did any research on Pritchard's law suits?

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13. NEW BUSINESS

Linda Adams advised that the grading policy does not include a letter and a number grade.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:36 PM**

Motion made by Mr. Linden, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and contractual matters.

Roll Call: YES: All Present

15. **OPEN SESSION: 11:10 PM**

Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mrs. Adams, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board return to Open Session at 11:10 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

16. **PUBLIC INPUT: COMMENTS ON MOTIONS ONLY**

17. **MOTIONS**

Personnel

1. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the letters of retirement submitted by Barbie Lewis and Darcy Jones, effective June 30, 2010.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

2. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve a move on the 2009-10 Salary Guide for Cathleen A. Sousa from 16-BA+15 to 1-BA+30, effective November 1, 2009, salary of \$71,780 prorated.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

3. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve Nancy Serrone as a lunchroom aide at \$7.50 per hour, upon the successful completion of the criminal history background check required by law.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

4. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following additions to the 2009-10 Substitute List, upon the successful completion of the criminal history background check required by law:

Rachel Case	Teacher
Chanel Smillie	Teacher

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

5. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Alexandria Township Board of Education approve application of the emergent hire of the following:

Rachel Case	Substitute Teacher
Nancy Serrone	Lunchroom Aide
Chanel Smillie	Substitute Teacher

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Travel and Related Expenses Reimbursement

6. Motion made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Saccal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve work-related and related expenses reimbursement for the following staff members that is directly related to and within the scope of their current work responsibilities, promotes the delivery of instruction, and is critical to the instructional needs of the School District or furthers the efficient operation of the School District, and is educationally necessary and fiscally prudent.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>
Stoskus	1/20/10	Piscataway
Stoskus	2/24/10	Piscataway

Roll Call Vote: YES: Adams, Guenther, Hill, Linden, McGuinness, Pfreundschuh, Saccal, Shapiro

NO: Wood

ABSTAIN: None

7. Motion made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Saccal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve work-related and related expenses reimbursement for the following staff members that is directly related to and within the scope of their current work responsibilities, promotes the delivery of instruction, and is critical to the instructional needs of the School District or furthers the efficient operation of the School District, and is educationally necessary and fiscally prudent. The information for this workshop was not available at the November 17, 2009 meeting.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>
Stoskus	12/10/09	Glassboro

Roll Call Vote: YES: Adams, Guenther, Hill, Linden, McGuinness, Pfreundschuh, Saccal, Shapiro

NO: Wood

ABSTAIN: None

Waiver of Requirements For Special Education Medicaid Initiative Program

8. Motion made by Dr. Guenther, seconded by Dr. Wood, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following Waiver of Requirements For Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2010-11 school year.

WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2010-11 school year, and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Township Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 30 Medicaid eligible classified students **OR** participation in SEMI would not provide a cost benefit to the District based on the projection of the District's available SEMI reimbursement for the 2010-11 budget year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alexandria Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Hunterdon an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2010-11 school year.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Approval of Minutes

9. Motion made by Dr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Hill, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2009 meeting with the following corrections:

Page 3, paragraphs 3,4, and 6 - replace Mr. Kiernan with Mr. Mahler

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Finance

10. Motion made by Mr. Saccal, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the transfers for the month ending November 30, 2009, as submitted by the Superintendent, as authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

11. Motion made by Mr. Saccal, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, to accept the Alexandria Township Board of Education's certification that the Superintendent, Dr. Matthew J. Jennings, recommends that the Board of Education accept the monthly financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the month ending November 30, 2009, and he further recommends in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(3) that the Board of Education certify that no major account or fund has been overexpended and that as of this report sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

- 12.. Motion made by Mr. Saccal, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board accept the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary's Barbara E. Prowker, certification as required by N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(d), that no line item account has been overexpended as of November 30, 2009, and that as of this date sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Bill List

13. Motion made by Mr. Pfreundschuh, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Bill List dated November 12, 2009 - December 8, 2009, check numbers 7343 - 7421, in the amount of \$1,560,956.86.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Custodial Services

Bids were received on October 30, 2009 for custodial services as follows:

	Andrews and Company	Cristi Cleaning Service Corporation	Pritchard Industries Inc.
18 Month Contract 1/1/10-6/30/10	99,400.00	116,376.00	80,515.93
18 Month Contract 7/1/10-6/30/11	198,800.00	235,759.00	152,284.94
18 Month Contract Total	298,200.00	352,135.00	232,800.87
24 Month Contract 7/1/10-6/30/11	198,300.00	235,759.00	150,389.56
24 Month Contract 7/11/11- 6/30/12	203,800.00	242,406.00	153,240.99
24 Month Contract Total	402,100.00	478,165.00	303,630.55
Middle School Custodian Substitute Daily Rate	240.00	123.75	21.40 Per Hour
Summer Evening Custodian Hourly Rate	24.00	16.50	23.20
Custodian Overtime Rate For Functions After 11:00 PM	30.00 Hourly	24.18 Hourly	28.60 Hourly
Grounds and Maintenance	400.00 Per Mowing	3,250.00	771.50 Per Week
Additional Staffing For July and August	24.00 Per Hour	4,871.00	19.00 Per Hour

14. Motion made by Mr. Saccal, seconded by Mr. Pfreunds Schuh, that the Board table the following motion.

Roll Call Vote: YES: Guenther, Hill, Linden, McGuinness, Pfreunds Schuh, Saccal, Shapiro

NO: Adams, Wood

ABSTAIN: None

Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following resolution to award a contract for custodial services as follows:

Whereas, the Alexandria Township Board of Education ("Board") received bids for the provision of custodial services for the Alexandria Township.

Whereas, each bidder was directed to supply a price for two separate options concerning the provision of custodial services; these options were identified as the Eighteen Month Contract and the Twenty-Four Month Contract; and

Whereas, the Board reserved the authority to, at its sole discretion, choose whether it would award a contract with an eighteen month duration or a twenty-four month duration; and

Whereas, the Board has determined that the custodial services provided pursuant to the () month contract would be the most beneficial and advantageous; and

Whereas, the lowest bidder for the () month contract was Pritchard Industries, Inc. ("Pritchard"), which submitted a bid in the amount of \$(); and

Whereas, the bid submitted by Pritchard complied with the Board's solicitation and specifications in all material respects; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board will award the contract for custodial services to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder for the () month contract; and be it further

Resolved, that the contract for custodial services is hereby awarded to Pritchard in the amount of \$().

President McGuinness read the following statement on behalf of the Board:

We, as the Board, embarked upon this endeavor because of our understanding of the economic environment and the realities of the mandated items that will be in the 2010 budget. We want to thank you, the public, for your input at this meeting. We want you to know that we heard you. Our decision to table this motion here this evening is a recognition that there are still budget uncertainties that exist and funding from the State is still uncertain as well. We may be in the same position relative to this motion in the March timeframe when the budget is completed.

The Board authorized the Work-Family Connection's enrichment programs on a trial basis, conditioned upon use of the same space that the after-care program is currently utilizing and that these programs do not require any administrative time on the part of the Board of Education employees.

Alexandria Township Education Foundation Grant

15. Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Dr. Wood, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board accept the Alexandria Township Education Foundation Grant #2010-03, in the amount of \$4,386.87, to be awarded as submitted by Debbie Glick, instrumental music teacher, for her project entitled "An Apple For The Band".

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

16. Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Dr. Wood, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board accept the Alexandria Township Education Foundation Grant #2010-04, in the amount of \$1,250.00, to be awarded as submitted by Mary Frances Daley, librarian/media specialist, for her project entitled "Alexandria Gets Cooking".

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

18. BOARD GOALS

The Alexandria Township Board of Education will:

1. determine if the Board desires to pursue recognition by New Jersey Schools To Watch.
2. continue to explore ways to increase the fiscal and operating efficiency of the District.
3. facilitate a more effective forum for communication through a published annual schedule, quarterly work session, and in other ways to be determined.

4. review and adopt policy book.
5. prepare for NJQSAC monitoring.

19. ADJOURN: 11:30 PM

Motion made by Mr. Saccal, seconded by Dr. Wood, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board adjourn the meeting at 11:30 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Respectfully Submitted by,

Barbara E. Prowker
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

BEP/nlm