

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The December 18th meeting of the Alexandria Township Board of Education was called to order at 7:45 Pm by President Patrick D. McGuinness.

2. NOTIFICATION OF MEETING

This meeting was properly advertised according to the Open Public Meeting Act (P.L. 1975:31) in the Delaware Valley News on May 1, 2008, to begin at 7:30 PM.

3. ROLL CALL

Francis L. Guenther - P
Steven Hill - P
Thomas W. Hlasney - A
Douglas E. Linden, Jr. - A

Susan F. Luthringer - P
Patrick D. McGuinness - P
Scott A. Saccal - A
Shawn J. Shapiro - 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. BOARD PRESIDENT

President McGuinness advised that the Board is doing well with the Policy reviews and that they are on track for the first draft of reviews by February 1, 2009.

Board candidates to express their interest in becoming a member of the Alexandria Township Board of Education.

Linda K. Adams and Douglas Walker addressed the Board, expressing their interest in becoming a member of the Alexandria Township Board of Education.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:52 PM**

Motion made by Mrs. Luthringer, seconded by Mr. Guenther, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the candidates interested in filling the vacancy on the Board created by the resignation of Bernice Keizer.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

8. **OPEN SESSION: 8:25 PM**

Motion made by Mrs. Luthringer, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board return to Open Session at 8:25 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

9. **NOMINATION**

Motion made by Mrs. Luthringer, seconded by Mr. Guenther, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board nominate Linda K. Adams to fill the Board vacancy created by the resignation of Bernice Keizer.

Roll Call Vote: YES: Guenther, Hill, Luthringer, McGuinness

NO: Shapiro

ABSTAIN: None

10. **BOARD SECRETARY TO ADMINISTER REQUIRED OATH**

Barbara E. Prowker administered the required oath to Linda K. Adams. The Board congratulated Linda and welcomed her to the Board.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board acknowledged correspondence from the Del Val Jr. Lacrosse, requesting use of the athletic fields and gym space to practice.

12. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Two Middle School students suspended - 5 days each

Dr. Jennings advised that administration is hosting a staff holiday breakfast.

Presentation on Summer Enrichment Program - David Pawlowski, Joy Dominic

13. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BD SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

1. 2009-2010 budget preparation underway.
2. As a condition of the Lester D. Wilson wastewater treatment plant permit, we are required to prove the integrity of the filter bed liner. Bayer-Risse submitted a plan to the NJDEP to test the filter beds to prove that there are no leaks. Their proposal is to actually perform the test. The test will be performed by the end of June, 2009. We have until September 2009 to test the beds. Bayer-Risse feels that the end of June is the time to test while we still have water in the system from the building being occupied.
3. Skylands Community Bank has lowered the earned interest on our accounts due to the Federal Government lowering the rate to zero. Six months ago our operating accounts earned 1.76%; now they will earn .50%. We also have two money market accounts that have gone from 2.45% to 1.50%.
4. Pending legislation: S1861 passed the Senate Education Committee and now will go to the full Senate for a vote. Key provisions of S1861 are:
 - budget vote eliminated
 - Board members elected in November
 - Board members seated in January
 - budget goes through executive county superintendent as now
 - public hearings continue
 - board sets tax rate and final budget
 - second questions in November
 - temporary budgets for second questions
 - supermajority remains for second question (60%)
5. A Right To Know compliance inspection was conducted by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services on December 16, 2008. The District received no violations of the Worker and Community Right To Know Act.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Susan Luthringer - Personnel
Patrick McGuinness - Policy
Patrick McGuinness - Buildings and Grounds

15. PUBLIC INPUT

Colleen LeBoeuf said that the band and chorus' performance at the Phillipsburg Mall was fantastic.

16. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

17. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Guenther requested a review of student retention. Dr. Jennings said that he will provide a summary of research on the issue, alternatives to retention, and he will provide his recommendations.

18. **MOTIONS**

Letter of Resignation

1. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Saccal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board accept the letter of resignation from Margaret B. Sheneman, part-time teacher, effective February 8, 2009.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Additions to Substitute List

2. Motion made by Mrs. Luthringer, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following additions to the 2008-09 Substitute List, upon the successful completion of the criminal history background check required by law.

Sharon Cocchiola - Nurse
Karen Codispoti - Teacher
Samantha DeCuollo- Teacher
Marianne Holcombe- Teacher
Linda Krov - Teacher
Lydia Lampert - Nurse
Jennifer Larsen - Teacher
Felice Lewaine - Nurse
John Scricco - Custodian
Bridget Snyder - Nurse
Heidi Tuozzolo - Teacher

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Emergent

3. Motion made by Mrs. Luthringer, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Alexandria Township Board of Education approve the emergent hiring of the following substitutes:

Sharon Cocchiola - Nurse
Karen Codispoti - Teacher
Samantha DeCuollo- Teacher
Marianne Holcombe- Teacher
Linda Krov - Teacher
Lydia Lampert - Nurse
Jennifer Larsen - Teacher
Felice Lewaine - Nurse
John Scricco - Custodian
Bridget Snyder - Nurse
Heidi Tuozzolo - Teacher

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Peer Leadership

4. Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mrs. Luthringer, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board amend the staff members participating in Schedule B of the Negotiated Agreement as Peer Leadership as follows: Eileen Barry, Lacey Fallon, Tara Harrigan, Christina Salerno, and Jennifer Staples.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Travel and Related Expenses Reimbursement

5. Motion made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Luthringer, 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 20, 2008 meeting.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>
Savacool	11/14/08	Piscataway, NJ
Stoskus	12/04/08	Phillipsburg, NJ

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Field Trips

6. Motion made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Luthringer, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following field trips:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Grade</u>
3/27/09	Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School	Jazz Band
3/31/09	Morristown Community Theatre	2
4/22/09	Neil Simon Theatre	7
5/29/09	Sterling Mine and Museum	2
Roll Call Vote:	YES: All Present	

Spring 2009 Alexandria Middle School Play

7. Motion made by Mr. Guenther, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve an after-school program produced and directed by River Union Stage for a Spring 2009 Alexandria Middle School Play, at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Approval of Minutes

8. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Hill, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2008 Board Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Finance

9. Motion made by Mrs. Luthringer, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the transfers for the month ending November 30, 2008, as submitted by the Superintendent, as authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

10. Motion made by Mrs. Luthringer, 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, 2008, 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

11. Motion made by Mrs. Luthringer, 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, 2008, 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

12. Motion made by Mrs. Luthringer, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Bill List dated November 13, 2008 - December 10, 2008, check numbers 6222 - 6350, in the amount of \$1,566,436.57.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All present

Waiver of Requirements For Special Education Medicaid Initiative Program

13. Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Hill, 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 2009-10 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 2009-10 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 2009-10 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 2009-10 school year.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present - Adams, Guenther, Hill, Luthringer, McGuinness, Shapiro

Lester D. Wilson School Wastewater Treatment Plant Proposal

14. Motion made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve a proposal submitted by Bayer-Risse Engineering, Inc. to provide engineering and testing services to implement the "work plan" developed by Bayer-Risse Engineering, Inc. to demonstrate the permeability of the liner and lack of quantitative loss through the sand filter beds serving the wastewater treatment plant at the Lester D. Wilson School in the amount of \$9,465.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Five-Year Preschool Program Plan

15. Motion made by Mr. Guenther, seconded by Mrs. Luthringer, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve submission of the Five Year Preschool Plan and Budget Planning Worksheets.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Long Range Facilities Plan Amendment

16. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the amendment of the Long-Range Facilities Plan to add the main entrance relocation at the Lester D. Wilson School.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Long Range Facilities Plan for 2009 - 2014

17. Motion made by Mrs. Luthringer, seconded by Mr. Hill, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Long Range Facilities/Maintenance Plan for 2009-2014.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Use of Facilities

18. Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mrs. Luthringer, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of the Lester D. Wilson School gym by the Del Val Jr. Lacrosse Chargers to conduct practices for the month of March on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 6:30-9:00 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

21. **ADDITIONAL MOTIONS**

Hiring of Aide

1. Motion made by Mr. Guenther, seconded by Mrs. Luthringer, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the hiring of Renee Pender as a full-time aide in the Lester D. Wilson School's multiple disabilities classroom, starting January 5, 2009, salary pro-rated at \$18,800, upon the successful completion of the criminal history background check required by law.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Emergent Hire

2. Motion made by Mr. Guenther, seconded by Mrs. Luthringer, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Alexandria Township Board of Education approve the emergent hiring of Renee Pender as a full-time aide.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Letter of Retirement

3. Motion made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board accept the letter of retirement from Linda Fleck, effective June 30, 2009.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Obsolete Equipment

4. Motion made by Mrs. Luthringer, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve discarding the following obsolete equipment:

hockey stocks, softballs, uniforms, record player, mats, footballs, basketballs, hockey nets, tie-down bases, locks, soccer balls, cassette tapes, videos, golf clubs, tires, catcher equipment, and bats

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

22. **BOARD GOALS**

The Alexandria Township Board of Education will:

1. determine if the Board desires to pursue recognition by a third party organization (e.g. Star Schools, Blue Ribbon Schools).
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.

23. ADJOURN

Motion made by Mrs. Luthringer, seconded by Mr. Guenther, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:52 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Respectfully Submitted By,

Barbara E. Prowker
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

BEP/nlm