

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The January 28, 2010 meeting of the Alexandria Township Board of Education was called to order by President Patrick D. McGuinness at 7:30 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 Pfreunds Schuh - P
Francis L. Guenther - A	Scott A. Saccal - P
Steven Hill - P	Shawn J. Shapiro - P
Douglas E. Linden, Jr. - P	Frances R. Wood - A(7:35PM)
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 advised that he attended a State Board of Education meeting.

President McGuinness advised that the region's board presidents met to discuss shared services and the coordination of curriculum.

President McGuinness and Vice President Saccal attended a Hunterdon County School Boards Association meeting regarding the 2010-11 school district budget.

Vice President Saccal said that they were advised to prepare for the worst.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

* Suspensions

* Report of Textbook Review Committee - Dr. Jennings thanked the Textbook Review Committee, Joy Dominic, Thomas Scollan, Robert Chabot, Frances Daley, David Pawlowski, and Francis Guenther for their report responding to complaints regarding the 6th grade social studies textbook.

9. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BD SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

1. Ms. Prowker advised that the districts are expecting their state aid figures the day after Governor Christie's address on March 16. The budget submission due date is March 23, which gives districts only five business days to complete their budgets.

2. There is a motion on the Agenda to set the polling hours for the April 20, 2010 annual school election for 2-9:00 PM.

3. There will be three 3-year terms on the ballot on April 20, 2010:
Patrick D. McGuinness
Peter Pfreunds Schuh
Scott A. Saccal

4. Dates to remember (tentative):
March 1, 2010 - Nominating petitions due
March 31, 2010 - Public Hearing
April 20, 2010 - Annual School Election
April 29, 2010 - Organization Meeting

5. 2008-09 per pupil tuition costs:
Preschool-K \$10,362
Grades 1-5 12,101
Grades 6-8 12,520
Multiple Disabilities 57,651
Preschool Disabilities 9,671

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Shawn Shapiro - Buildings and Grounds
Peter Pfreunds Schuh - Education Foundation
Patrick McGuinness - Strategic Planning

11. PUBLIC INPUT

A gentleman in the audience asked for specifics regarding the Lester D. Wilson School relocation of the main office project.

Mrs. Bobbie Beriont, President of Hunterdon School Business Officials, advised the Board that Barbara Prowker has been nominated by her peers for a distinguished service award. Mrs. Beriont presented Barbara with flowers and read the nomination letter that will be presented at the state level for consideration. The Board and the audience applauded Barbara for her achievement.

Mr. Podpora asked what the status was with the 6th grade social studies textbook?

Barbara Callahan questioned the process in review of the social studies textbook.

Dr. Jennings represented that he will seek advice from the District's attorney as to whether the report submitted by the Textbook Review Committee is public information and can be distributed as such.

Mr. Kiernan questioned the correction in the November 17, 2009 Minutes regarding comments noted that he made that were actually someone else's comments. Ms. Prowker explained that the correction was noted when accepting the November Minutes.

Someone asked Mr. Shapiro to explain the District's Long Range Facilities/Maintenance Plan.

Mr. Podpora asked what the 6th grade social studies textbook review policy was? Mr. Podpora said that he feels that parts of the book are offensive. He represented that Mr. Pawlowski guaranteed him that nothing sensitive will be taught in his son's classroom.

Beth Kelly asked if the Board could share the results of the Textbook Review Committee's findings?

Dr. Jennings again represented that he would seek the District's attorney's recommendation as to whether the report could be released to the public.

Ms. Trionfo asked if the Board would be discussing privatizing the custodial staff at the meeting?

President McGuinness said that at the December meeting, the Board tabled the motion and read a statement advising that the matter was tabled until completion of the 2010-11 budget.

Mike Wasik asked why the distinguished honor roll was eliminated?

Dr. Jennings said that it was eliminated to raise the standards of the honor roll.

Beth Kelly asked if the Board was ready to discuss regionalization?

President McGuinness said that it was a charge for the county superintendents, but new regulations have eliminated that responsibility. President McGuinness further advised that regionalization does not necessarily save tax payers money.

Mr. Kiernan asked if the District could share positions with other districts?

President McGuinness advised that there are several shared services arranged with surrounding districts and in cooperative purchasing with various groups as well.

Someone asked if we will use a grant for the Lester D. Wilson School relocation of the main office project if the project is advanced. President McGuinness said that the District did receive a grant that would fund 40% of the project and capital reserve would fund the remaining 60%.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13. NEW BUSINESS

14. PUBLIC INPUT: COMMENTS ON MOTIONS ONLY

Mr. Kiernan said that he likes the actual workshops listed on the Agenda so that the public can see what training staff is receiving.

15. MOTIONS

Personnel

1. Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Saccal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve maternity leave for Mary Bidwell, commencing April 10 - June 30, 2010. Mrs. Bidwell will use accumulated sick days during this time period. Request is also made for a child rearing leave from September 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011. Mrs. Bidwell will return to a teaching position September 1, 2011.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

2. Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Saccal, 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:

Ann Blanke	Teacher
Torie Esposito	Teacher
Jason Feldman	Teacher
Angela Flora	Teacher
Lisa MacKinnon	Teacher
Daniel Testa	Teacher

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

3. Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Saccal, 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 hiring of the following substitutes:

Ann Blanke	Teacher
Torie Esposito	Teacher
Jason Feldman	Teacher
Angela Flora	Teacher
Lisa MacKinnon	Teacher
Daniel Testa	Teacher

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Travel and Related Expenses Reimbursement

4. Motion made by Mr. Linden, seconded by Mr. Hill, 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>	<u>Purpose</u>
Accumanno	2/3/10	Flemington	Hunterdon County Librarian Workshop
Fichner	2/25/10	Piscataway	Effective Collaborations With Parents, Community Members and Organizations

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

5. Motion made by Mr. Linden, seconded by Mr. Hill, 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 December 15, 2009 meeting.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Bills	1/26/10	East Windsor	NJASCD Annual State Conference
Fuchs	1/18/10	Morristown	Diabetes Workshop for School Personnel
Kacedon	1/26/10	East Windsor	NJASC Annual State Conference

Meyer	1/13/10	Piscataway	Best Practices In Functional Assessment and Developing Effective Treatment for Learners with Special Needs
Meyer	1/28/10	Edison	Autism and Related Conditions: An Advanced Systems Seminar with Dr. John Ortiz
Stoskus	1/26/10	Piscataway	Putting Children First

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Approval of Minutes

6. Motion made by Mr. Pfreunds Schuh, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Minutes of the December 15, 2009 meeting as presented.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Finance

7. Motion made by Mr. Saccal, seconded by Dr. Wood, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the transfers for the month ending December 31, 2009, as submitted by the Superintendent, as authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

8. Motion made by Mr. Saccal, seconded by Dr. Wood, 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 December 31, 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

9. Motion made by Mr. Saccal, seconded by Dr. Wood, 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 December 31, 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

10. Motion made by Mr. Saccal, seconded by Dr. Wood, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Bill List dated December 9, 2009 thru January 20, 2010, in the amount of \$1,235,157.40, check numbers 7422 - 7522.

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

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Adams

2010-11 Preschool Tuition

11. Motion made by Dr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Adams, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the 2010-11 regular preschool tuition rate at \$4,250.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Alexandria Township Education Foundation Grant

Motion made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Saccal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the following motion be tabled.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

12. Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board accept the Alexandria Township Education Foundation Grant #2010-06, in the amount of \$3,199.00, to be awarded as submitted by Darcy Jones, Gym Teacher, for her project entitled "Rock Crawl Thru Playground Equipment".

Long Range Facilities/Maintenance Plan for 2010-15

13. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Long Range Facilities/Maintenance Plan for 2010-15 as presented.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Election

14. Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the polling hours for the April 20, 2010 Annual School Election from 2:00-9:00 PM.

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

NO: Adams

ABSTAIN: None

15. Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve March 31, 2010 to conduct the Public Hearing of the 2010-11 Annual School Budget. The meeting will be conducted in the Alexandria Middle School library/media center, commencing at 7:00 PM. The Board will conduct regular business immediately following the Public Hearing. Therefore, the meeting originally scheduled for regular business on March 25, 2010, will be canceled.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

16. Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve April 29, 2010 to conduct the annual organization of the Board. The meeting will be conducted in the Alexandria Middle School library/media center, commencing at 7:00 PM. The Board will conduct regular business immediately following organization of the Board. Therefore, the meeting originally scheduled for regular business on April 22, 2010 will be canceled.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Use of Facilities

17. Motion made by Mr. Linden, seconded by Dr. Wood, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of the Lester D. Wilson School gym by the Delaware Valley Chargers to conduct a coaches clinic on February 1, 8, 22, 2010 from 7:00-9:00 PM.

Also, a request is made to use the Lester D. Wilson School parking lot on March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2010 from 12:00 - 5:00 PM for lacrosse practice.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

16. 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.

17. ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Linden, seconded by Dr. Wood, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:32 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Respectfully Submitted By,

Barbara E. Prowker
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary