

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Patrick McGuinness called the September 22, 2009 meeting to order 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 August 6, 2009, to begin at 7:30 PM.

3. ROLL CALL

Linda K. Adams - P	Patrick D. McGuinness - P
Francis L. Guenther - A(7:33 PM)	Scott A. Saccal - P
Steven Hill - P	Shawn J. Shapiro - P
Douglas E. Linden, Jr. - A	Frances R. Wood - 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

Joanne McCluskey introduced four 5th grade students who put together a presentation on what they did on the first day of school in 5th grade. Each student talked about what activities they did on the first day.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. BOARD PRESIDENT

Board to interview interested candidates to fill Thomas Hlasney's Board seat.

Joan Monaco-Crotty
Peter Pfreunds Schuh
Cathy M. Torrey
Douglas Walker
Mark W. Yaros

Barbara E. Prowker advised that Mark W. Yaros has withdrawn his candidacy for the vacant Board seat.

President McGuinness stated what the legal requirements are to qualify as a board member and asked the candidates to attest to the fact that they meet the requirements. All did. President McGuinness discussed what a board members' role is.

At this time, President McGuinness called upon the candidates to introduce themselves, give a brief background, and to express why they are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Education.

After each candidate addressed the Board, President McGuinness, Vice President Scott Saccal, and then the Board Members asked questions of each of the candidates.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:17 PM

Motion made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Saccal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the interested candidates for the vacant Board seat.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

9. OPEN SESSION: 8:40 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 8:40 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Dr. Wood, that the Board approve Peter Pfreunds Schuh to fill the vacant Board seat, effective September 22, 2009 until the April 20, 2010 Annual School Election.

Roll Call Vote: YES: Guenther, Hill, McGuinness, Saccal, Shapiro, Wood
NO: Adams
ABSTAIN: None

Ms. Prowker administered the oath to the newly appointed Board Member.

At this time Mr. Pfreunds Schuh took his place with the Board.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Jennings thanked the staff and the administration for the successful opening of the 2009-2010 school year.

Dr. Matthew J. Jennings reported on the following:

- * Suspensions - None
- * Approvals of Public Performance by Pupils - None
- * Professional Development activities of Teaching Staff Members

Dr. Jennings introduced Erin Winters and gave a brief background. Ms. Winters will replace Kathleen Martin, who is retiring October 31, 2009.

Joy Dominic presented the 2008-09 student assessment results.

11. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BD SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

1. Ms. Prowker advised that William M. Colantano, CPA, the District's auditor, will attend the October 22, 2009 Board meeting to review the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.
2. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law on February 27, 2009, which authorized the expenditure of billions of dollars in an effort to revive the nation's economy. New Jersey will receive ARRA funds through a number of different funding streams that will flow through various departments of state government as well as directly to units of local government.

Districts who receive equalization aid have to adjust their current expense and move part of the equalization funds to funds 16 and 17. Appropriations are adjusted accordingly and moved to these funds.

Alexandria's original equalization aid was \$1,075,572. Following are the revised figures:

Equalization Aid	880,414
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State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF)

ARRA-ESF	187,885
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ARRA-GSF	7,273
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Absent another federal stimulus package, New Jersey and other states will have great difficulty maintaining statutory state aid entitlements.

3. Notice has been received from Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner, that the execution of the ROD Grant Agreement has been extended beyond the 180 days to June 1, 2010.

12. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

13. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Sharon Lukatch said that the Board should be proud of installing smartboards in each of the classrooms. Ms. Lukatch said that they are wonderful.

Douglas Walker asked for an explanation of the report cards. Dr. Jennings said that he explained the report cards at back-to-school night and that there was also an explanation in the Student Handbook on the District's website.

Mr. Walker said that he doesn't like the first grade math book. Mr. Walker presented the book to the Board to examine. Dr. Jennings advised that a committee of teachers chose the book and that he stands behind their choice. Dr. Jennings feels that the choice is educationally and fiscally the right choice.

Mr. Walker went on to say that he thinks the Handwriting Without Tears text is an unnecessary change. Dr. Jennings advised that this also was recommended by staff and, more particularly, by the District's reading specialist. He thanked Mr. Walker for his opinion.

14. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President McGuinness advised that the Board's bylaws do not permit a second public input in the Agenda. President McGuinness referred the matter to the Policy Committee to review the current bylaw and to make a recommendation to the Board as to whether to include a second public input on the Agenda.

15. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Motion made by Mr. Saccal, seconded by Dr. Guenther, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following procedural options to make up a large number of lost school days in the event of the Alexandria Township School District having to close for an extended period of time.
 - a. Days added to the end of school.
 - b. If additional days are needed, we start with December 28, 2009 and then go to December 31, 2009.
 - c. If additional days are needed or the closure is after December 31, 2009, we start with April 5, 2010 and go to April 8, 2010.

- d. Worst case scenario, we begin to add Saturdays to the school calendar beginning in May.

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

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Wood

2. Matthew Hoyda's request for the 2010-2011 Kindergarten tuition rate for District employees was discussed. Ms. Prowker advised that she could not find policy language that specifically noted what the tuition rate would be for non-resident students of staff members. President McGuinness directed the matter to the Policy Committee for a recommendation.
3. The Board acknowledged receipt of an email from Debora Frank, a Delaware Valley Regional High School Board of Education member. Ms. Frank requested that an Alexandria Township Board of Education member be on a Community Relations Committee whose purpose is to create better communications between the Delaware Valley Regional High School Board of Education and the sending districts.

Linda Adams was appointed to represent the District and Dr. Wood will serve as the alternate.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:46 PM

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

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

17. OPEN SESSION: 10:22 PM

Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Saccal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board return to Open Session at 10:22 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

18. MOTIONS

Personnel

1. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Dr. Guenther, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board appoint Ellen Kluber as the Treasurer of School Moneys, effective October 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, at a salary of \$4,640.

Roll Call vote: YES: All Present

2. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Dr. Guenther, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board move the following certified staff on the Negotiated Salary Guide, effective September 1, 2009:

Ursula Accumanno from Step 7-BA+15 to Step 7-MA, \$54,770
Dawn Blessing from Step 18-BA+30 to Step 18-BA+45, \$77,110

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

3. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Dr. Guenther, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of IDEA funds for salaries as follows:

Cara Hamrah	ARRA Basic	\$13,971
	ARRA Preschool	4,529
Michael Haughey	IDEIA Basic	18,800
Renee Pender	IDEIA Basic	5,150

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

4. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Dr. Guenther, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the substitute lunch aides' rate of pay as \$7.25 per hour.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

5. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Dr. Guenther, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board amend the employment contract for JoAnn Sei, effective September 1, 2009, as follows: Step 13-MA+15(.4) to Step 13-MA+30(.4) \$69,210 prorated.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

6. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Dr. Guenther, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve an employment contract for Erin Winters for the 2009-2010 school year, commencing October 1, 2009, to replace Kathleen Martin as a special education teacher at Step 1-BA, \$46,830 prorated.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Emergent Hiring

7. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Dr. Guenther, 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:

Erin Winters Teacher

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

2009-2010 Substitute List

8. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Dr. Guenther, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following additions to the 2009-2010 Substitute List, upon the successful completion of the criminal history check required by law:

Nancy O'Leary Secretary
Stefanie Parmese Teacher
Patricia Hamill Teacher
Melissa Tremaine Teacher
Cindy Fisher Secretary
Jennifer Brackin Teacher
Mary Hurford Teacher

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Emergent Hiring

9. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Dr. Guenther, 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:

Nancy O'Leary Secretary
Stefanie Parmese Teacher
Patricia Hamill Teacher
Melissa Tremaine Teacher
Cindy Fisher Secretary
Jennifer Brackin Teacher
Mary Hurford Teacher

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Student Teacher

10. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Dr. Guenther, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve Scott Markowitz to be a student teacher in Darcy Jones' class at the Lester D. Wilson School from October 20, 2009 - December 15, 2009. Mr. Markowitz is a student at East Stroudsburg University.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Travel and Related Expenses Reimbursement

11. Motion made by Dr. Guenther, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, 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	9/29/09	Trenton

Roll Call Vote: YES: Adams, Guenther, Hill, McGuinness, Saccal, Shapiro, Wood
NO: None
ABSTAIN: Pfreunds Schuh

Travel and Related Expenses Reimbursement

12. Motion made by Dr. Guenther, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, 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>
Esposito	10/23/09	Princeton
Kacedon	10/12/09	Bernards
Meyer	10/29/09	Edison
Stoskus	10/16/09	Morristown

Roll Call Vote: YES: Adams, Guenther, Hill, McGuinness, Saccal, Shapiro, Wood
NO: None
ABSTAIN: Pfreunds Schuh

Approval of Minutes

13. Motion made by Mr. Saccal, seconded by Mrs. Adams, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Minutes of the August 27, 2009 meeting as presented.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Finance

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

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

15. Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Saccal, 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 August 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

16. Motion made by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Saccal, 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 August 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

17. Motion made by Mr. Pfreundschuh, seconded by Dr. Wood, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Bill List dated August 13, 2009 - September 16, 2009, check numbers 7059 - 7168, in the amount of \$731,914.73.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Rebel2 Tobacco Prevention Program Grant

18. Motion made by Dr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Adams, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the REBEL2 Tobacco Prevention Program Grant for \$1,144.45 for the 2009-2010 school year. The grant is provided through Hunterdon Prevention Resources in Flemington and will be coordinated by Beverly Stoskus, Alexandria Middle School Counselor and Dorothy Fuchs, Alexandria Middle School Nurse. The student population is 4th-8th grades.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Regulation No. 2624 - Grading System

19. Motion made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board revise Regulation No. 2624 - Grading System to reflect the new grading scale.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Use of Facilities

20. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Hill, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of the Lester D. Wilson School gym by Cub Scout Pack 114 for the 2009-2010 school year, from 7:00-8:45 PM on Fridays.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

21. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Hill, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of the Lester D. Wilson School library by Pack 114 leaders for the 2009-2010 school year, from 7:00-8:45 PM on Thursdays.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

22. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Hill, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of the Lester D. Wilson School art room by Den 4 for the 2009-2010 school year from 6:30-7:30 PM on Thursdays.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

23. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Hill, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of the Lester D. Wilson School gym by Den 2 for the 2009-2010 school year from 6:30-8:30 PM on Wednesdays.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

24. Motion made by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Hill, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of the Lester D. Wilson School art room by Brownie Troop 799 on the first and third Thursdays of the month for the 2009-2010 school year from 3:40-4:30 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

19. 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.

20. ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Saccal, seconded by Dr. Guenther, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board adjourn the meeting at 10:45 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Respectfully Submitted By,

Barbara E. Prowker
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary