

**FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
January 9, 2012
MINUTES**

The regular session of the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education was called to order in conformance with the "Sunshine Law" by Patrick Larmore at 7:01 p.m. in the Auditorium at J.P. Case Middle School.

Members Present

Robin Behn	Janine Foreman*
Michael Bonieski	Linda Mastellone
Dennis Copeland	Doris McGivney
Bruce Davidson	Patrick Larmore

Members Absent

*arrived at 7:08 p.m.

On the motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Ms. Behn, minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 19, 2011* were approved viva voce.
*Ms. McGivney abstained.

CITIZENS ADDRESSED THE BOARD

Robin Smith, FREA President, recognized last year's Teacher of Year. She noted that the Board of Education gave no recognition.

Dan DeCanio, Vice President, FREA, noted teachers pay more for benefits and the Board of Education makes tough decisions.

Scott Totten, Teacher, noted Mr. Zarish asked about researching for a new auditor and expressed concern that we pay so little for an audit.

Linda Alsop, taxpayer, Raritan Township, Teacher, shared her daughters success stories as students of the Flemington-Raritan School District. She spoke about the environment students need to learn and teachers need to work. She asked that the contract be settled.

Vanessa Ahmed, Teacher, noted how wonderful this district is. She asked the Board and Administrators to value the expertise the teachers bring to the school. She asked leaders to improve the climate and therefore the performance.

Judy Mandell, Teacher, thanked the Board of Education for looking at those speaking.

Linda Brown, Teacher, shared the CPI rate with the Board of Education for December 2011 and noted many of the rates are increasing.

Sue Vala, Teacher, spoke about a speech she read 15 years ago. She noted that she could use it again today. She asked the Board of Education to consider what they need to run their household. She is concerned that teachers have to beg for what she feels is right. She asked the Board "why do you put us last"?

Laura Lucchetto, Teacher, shared that she has a passion for teaching, but it's very tough being a teacher with all of these stresses.

Kathy Scheffels, Teacher, shared her personal and professional commitment to this community and our students. She truly cares about our students. She stated that the Teachers ask that they are recognized, respected and compensated.

Lori Gerry, Teacher, spoke about how many years she has been in this district and that she was overlooked for 25 years. Mr. Nolan did correct the error but still felt invisible. When she was asked by others if they should become teachers, she has a tough time saying yes. She will need to have a second job; it is no longer financially enough.

Ellen Rogers, Teacher, spoke about the work she does and the reasons she became a teacher. She asked the Board of Education to settle the contract. She noted that the teachers are not your enemies. She also thanked the FREA negotiations team for all of their work.

Robert Jones, Teacher, asked how we paid bus drivers on January 2 since the calendars are not the same with Hunterdon Central. He asked about the mold update at Robert Hunter as he thought the test results came back.

Aileen Marsh, Teacher, stated she is getting frustrated that the leadership is not respectful, and they are only asking for an agreement and to be treated fairly.

Ms. Foreman gave a negotiations update. She noted next Thursday, January 19th at 6:00 p.m. is Fact Finding. The Fact Finder will issue a written report. His recommendation is not binding. The report will be forth coming, hopefully within 3 or 4 months. The report will be public.

Mr. Nolan made a statement expressing the value and appreciation for you as teachers. He also thanked them for the professionalism they showed tonight.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Nolan briefly gave an Introductory Statement of the District Performance Review and Statement of Assurance of the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum as attached.

PERSONNEL

The next meeting will be January 17, 2012.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL:

Certified Staff – Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence

All Personnel items were approved under one motion made by Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Ms. Foreman.

- Approval was given for the following staff member to take a family leave as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc	Grade	Leave	Anticipated Date(s)
a.	Corson	Seth	JPC	Computer	Family Leave/NJ Paid	January 23, 2012-February 13, 2012

- Approval was given for the following staff members to take days without pay for personal reasons:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Date(s)
a.	Assini	Andrew	JPC	March 28, 2012-April 5, 2012
b.	Assini	Cynthia	JPC	March 28, 2012-April 5, 2012

- Approval was given to amend the motion of June 6, 2011:

for the following staff members to take a maternity leave as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc	Grade	Leave	Anticipated Date(s)
d.	Petronis	Morgan	RFIS	Grade 5	Disability Leave	November 7, 2011-January 4, 2012
					Family Leave/NJ Paid	January 5, 2012-April 6, 2012
					Childcare Leave	April 9, 2012-June 30, 2012

to read:

for the following staff members to take a maternity leave as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc	Grade	Leave	Anticipated Date(s)
d.	Petronis	Morgan	RFIS	Grade 5	Disability Leave	November 7, 2011-January 9, 2012
					Family Leave/NJ Paid	January 10, 2012-March 30, 2012
					Childcare Leave	April 2, 2012-June 30, 2012

Non-Certified Staff

4. Approval was given to employ Linda Geema, Cafeteria Aide at Robert Hunter School, 2 days per week for a maximum of 2.5 hours per day at a rate of \$13.39 per hour. Fingerprinting and health exam required.

All Staff – Additional Compensation

5. Approval was given to employ the following staff members for additional compensation during the 2011-2012 school year:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc	Purpose	Max. # of Hours	Rate
a.	Clark	Catherine	JPC	Additional parent conference	2.5	1/400 of their salary
b.	Hlavsa-Suk	Dawn	JPC	Additional parent conference	2.5	1/400 of their salary
c.	Mondoro	Diane	JPC	Additional parent conference	2.5	1/400 of their salary
d.	Plichta	David	JPC	Additional parent conference	2.5	1/400 of their salary
e.	Greenbaum	Amy	FAD	Winter Concert Chaperones	1.5	\$29/hr
f.	Klein	Lea	FAD	Winter Concert Chaperones	1.5	\$29/hr
g.	Sokoloski	Lydia	FAD	Winter Concert Chaperones	1.5	\$29/hr
h.	Stewart	Barbara	FAD	Winter Concert Chaperones	1.5	\$29/hr
i.	Kiesling	Cassandra	FAD	Winter Concert Chaperones	2	\$29/hr
j.	Mitcheltree	Jack	CH	Transportation Aide	N/A	\$20/hr
k.	Amoriello	Thomas	RFIS	Spring Guitar Club	10	\$29/hr.
l.	Bontempo	Emil	BS	Winter Concert	2	\$29/hr
m.	Golding	Dawn	BS	Winter Concert	2	\$29/hr
n.	Povall	Cindy	BS	Winter Concert	2	\$29/hr
o.	Grabowich	Christine	SS	IEP Direct Training	10	\$32/hr
p.	Sullivan	Debra	SS	IEP Direct Training	10	\$32/hr
q.	Zullo	Coleen	SS	IEP Direct Training	10	\$32/hr

Substitutes

6. Approval was given to employ the following applicants as Substitutes for the 2011-2012 school year pending criminal history background checks:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Position(s)	Certification(s)
a.	Geema	Linda	Cafeteria Aide	N/A
b.	Ciurczak	Leah	Teacher, Teacher Assistant	County Substitute-expires 7/1/14
c.	Ingram	Susan	Teacher, Teacher Assistant	NJ Standard Elementary School Teacher

Field Placements

7. Approval was given for the following field placements for the 2011-2012 school year:

Candidate/College/Univ.	Cooperating Teacher	Loc/Position	Dates
Michael Matlack/TCNJ	Sharon Steinmetz/Andrea Strawman	BS/Grade 3/Resource Center	January 17, 2012-April 27, 2012

8. Approval was given for the following student to observe classes during the 2011-2012 school year:

Item	Last Name	First Name	From	Observing
a.	Camelo	Tiffany	Kean University	Reading-Fleming Intermediate
b.	DeBrito	Carla	Kean University	Reading-Fleming Intermediate
c.	DelleDonne	Debra	Kean University	Reading-Fleming Intermediate
d.	Ferrer	James	Kean University	Reading-Fleming Intermediate
e.	Hollenbeck	Heather	Kean University	Reading-Fleming Intermediate
f.	Kinney	Scott	Kean University	Reading-Fleming Intermediate
g.	Matrongolo	Kaitlyn	Kean University	Reading-Fleming Intermediate
h.	Pecherski	Teghan	Kean University	Reading-Fleming Intermediate
i.	Perna	Elizabeth	Kean University	Reading-Fleming Intermediate
j.	Recenello	Lauren	Kean University	Reading-Fleming Intermediate
k.	Villanueva	Joan Airan	Kean University	Reading-Fleming Intermediate
l.	Wisniewski	Stefanie	Kean University	Reading-Fleming Intermediate
m.	Canonico	Allison	University of Delaware	Copper Hill
n.	Borowsky	Loretta	Raritan Valley Community College	Frances A. Desmares
o.	Tynes	Keri	Raritan Valley Community College	Barley Sheaf

Professional Development/Travel

9. Approval was given for the following travel expenditures for staff members or their designated alternate to attend professional development conferences/workshops. This travel is deemed educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and all travel expenditures shall be directly related to and within the scope of the staff member's current responsibilities and the district's professional development plan.

Item	Last Name	First Name	Workshop/Conference	Dates	Includes (See Below)	Max.Amt.
a.	Amundsen	Karen	K-2 CCSS in Math Workshop, New Brunswick, NJ	Feb. 15, 2012	R	\$177
b.	Custy	Mary Jane	NJ Association of the Gifted Annual Conference, Somerset, NJ	Mar. 9, 2012	R, O, M	\$205
c.	Miller	Jeffrey	NJ Association of the Gifted Annual Conference, Somerset, NJ	Mar. 9, 2012	R, M	\$218
d.	Alsop	Linda	Common Core & N.J. State Standards Workshop, New Brunswick, NJ	Jan. 19, 2012 Jan. 23, 2012	R, M	\$366
e.	Tonge	Michele	Common Core & N.J. State Standards Workshop, New Brunswick, NJ	Jan. 19, 2012 Jan. 23, 2012	R, M	\$366
f.	Ricard	Deborah	Common Core & N.J. State Standards Workshop, New Brunswick, NJ	Jan. 19, 2012 Jan. 23, 2012	R, M	\$363
g.	Golding	Dawn	ACDA Eastern Convention, Providence, RI	Feb. 16-17, 2012	R	\$225
h.	DeGenova	Sherrill	Helping Students w/Autism Learn During Group Instruction, Edison, NJ	April 17, 2012	R, M	\$143
R = Registration Fee; M = Mileage; L = Lodging; F = Food; O = Other						

Aye: Ms. Behn Ms. Foreman Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Bonieski Ms. Mastellone
 Dr. Copeland Ms. McGivney
 Mr. Davidson Mr. Larmore

CURRICULUM

The next meeting will be January 18, 2012

The Curriculum item was approved under one motion made by Dr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Davidson.

- Approval was given to employ Meredith Serota Alvaro, consultant, to prepare and present a workshop entitled, "Differentiating Units of Study for Writing" on January 24, 2012, for a maximum amount of \$1,500.00. Monies to be taken from the Title IIA Grant.

Aye: Ms. Behn Ms. Foreman Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Bonieski Ms. Mastellone
 Dr. Copeland Ms. McGivney
 Mr. Davidson Mr. Larmore

FACILITIES/OPERATIONS

The next meeting is yet to be determined.

Ms. Hope stated the ESCO contract is being completed.

TRANSPORTATION

The next meeting will be January 11, 2012.

No report.

FINANCE

The next meeting will be January 20, 2012.

The Finance item was approved under one motion made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. Mastellone.

- Approval was given to cancel the following outstanding warrant checks:

Date	Check #	Amount
October 18, 2010	21507	\$825.22
November 15, 2010	21768	\$510.00
February 28, 2011	22136	\$490.00
February 28, 2011	22148	\$ 29.29
May 16, 2011	22692	\$ 64.69

Dr. Copeland asked what the projected budget deficit is. Mr. Davidson noted the best estimate is approximately 1 million. Ms. Hope will have more information towards the end of January on this.

Aye: Ms. Behn Ms. Foreman Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Bonieski Ms. Mastellone
 Dr. Copeland Ms. McGivney
 Mr. Davidson Mr. Larmore

COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

The next meeting will be January 17, 2012.

No Report.

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION/LEGISLATIVE ADVISOR

No Report.

POLICY

The next meeting will be February 7, 2012.

All Policy items were approved under one motion made by Ms. Mastellone, seconded by Mr. Davidson.

1. Approval was given for the Facility Use Agreement with the Flemington-Raritan Youth Basketball Association for the 2011-2012 school year, as attached.
2. Approval was given for the presentation of the following new policies for 2nd reading:

5519 – Dating Violence at School – Mandated

Dating violence legislation, P.L. 2011 Chapter 64 was recently signed requiring school districts to have a policy to prevent and respond to incidents of dating violence at school.

The new law takes effect for the 2011-2012 school year and required the NJDOE to establish a task force to develop policy guidance. The NJDOE published its policy guidance on September 19, 2011.

Strauss Esmay Associates developed Policy and Regulation Guide 5519 that incorporates the requirements of the new law and the policy language recommended in the NJDOE Policy Guidance. The Policy Guidance recommends certain language be included in the district's Policy that we typically include in a regulation as this language is more about procedure than Policy statements. We included these provisions in the new Regulation Guide and to be in compliance with the statute, we are requiring this Regulation Guide be a regulation that requires Board approval. The new law requires each school district/charter school to approve a policy to prevent, respond, and educate their pupils, as well as their school community, on acts or incidents of dating violence.

The Board's policy and must comply with the minimum requirements stated in the legislation in regards to the prevention, response, and education of their pupils in regards to incidents of dating violence that occur at school. The policy must contain, at the minimum, the following requirements:

1. A statement that dating violence will not be tolerated;
2. Dating violence reporting procedures;
3. Guidelines for responding to at-school incidents of dating violence;
4. Discipline procedures specific to at-school incidents of dating violence;
5. Warning signs of dating violence; and
6. Information on safe, appropriate, school, family, peer, and community resources available to address dating violence.

These provisions have been incorporated into the new Policy and Regulation Guide and are consistent with the NJDOE's Policy Guidance published on September 19, 2011. The NJDOE and the Policy Guidance state the content and format of local policies and procedures must be developed locally. Therefore, a district may make changes and revisions to this Policy and Regulation Guide that are consistent with the requirements of the law.

The NJDOE Policy Guidance included a list of support agencies and suggested educational resources on dating violence that is included with this Policy Alert. In addition, the Guidance included a suggested Victim Safety Plan, a School-Based Stay-Away Agreement, and a Report Form. We made several revisions to these documents to be specific to dating violence as some of the forms included bullying and sexual harassment. In addition, we developed an Investigation Form. These forms and documents may be modified by a district. The district has the option to use the Victim Safety Plan or a Stay-Away Agreement. The Policy and Regulation Guides have been available for download through www.straussesmay.com since October 31, 2011. These new Guides with supporting forms and documents are included in this Policy Alert. Each school district must also update their Code of Conduct to include consequences and remedial measures for confirmed acts or incidents of dating violence at school.

6472 – Tuition Assistance – Recommended

P.L. 2010, Chapter 13 (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8.5) was approved on May 6, 2010 and has a significant impact on tuition assistance and additional compensation paid for a staff member who acquires additional academic credits or completes an advanced degree. The new statute has been the source of much debate and controversy regarding the interpretation of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8.5.c. that indicates, *“The tuition assistance or additional compensation shall be provided only for a course or degree related to the employee's current or future job responsibilities.”* A district’s interpretation and implementation of this provision of the statute should be determined after consultation with the Board and the Board Attorney. Strauss Esmay Associates delayed publishing this Policy Guide anticipating some clarification from the New Jersey Department of Education or a Commissioner’s decision challenging a district’s interpretation of the provision. As of this Policy Alert there has been no clarification or published Commissioner’s decision challenging a district’s interpretation.

7421 – Indoor Air Quality Standards – Recommended

Aye: Ms. Behn Ms. Foreman Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Bonieski Ms. Mastellone
 Dr. Copeland Ms. McGivney
 Mr. Davidson Mr. Larmore

INFORMATION

1. Fire and Security Drills to date for the 2011-2012 School Year:

Month	Fire Drills					
	BS	CH	FAD	JPC	RFIS	RH
Sept	9/16	9/16	9/12	9/14	9/9	9/16
Oct	10/7	10/5	10/11	10/5	10/31	10/20
Nov	11/9	11/14	11/7	11/9	11/15	11/9
Dec	12/2	12/12	12/14	12/5	12/23	12/14

Month	Security					
	BS	CH	FAD	JPC	RFIS	RH
Sept	9/26	9/20	9/20	9/16	9/23	9/22
Oct	10/17	10/20	10/20	10/26	10/28	10/26
Nov	11/2&3	11/22	11/21	11/18	11/29	11/18
Dec	12/13	12/14	12/12	12/12	12/23	12/15

2. School Suspensions for the month of December:

School	Reason	Duration
Desmares	Inappropriate conduct in the school cafeteria	One Day
JP Case	Inappropriate physical contact with another student	One Day
JPC	Inappropriate physical contact with a student	One Day

3. Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Investigations:

School	Date of Incident	Report #	Classified HIB (Y/N)	Additional Action Taken
Copper Hill	September-November 2011	10	No	Remedial measures outlined in HIB report
Copper Hill	September-November 2011	11	No	Remedial measures outlined in HIB report
Desmares	November-December 2011	3	No	Remedial measures outlined in HIB report
RFIS	December 12, 2011	5	Yes	Remedial measures outlined in HIB report
RFIS	December 12, 2011	6	Yes	Remedial measures outlined in HIB report

MISCELLANEOUS

All Miscellaneous items were approved under one motion made by Ms. McGivney, seconded by Ms. Foreman.

1. Approval was given to adopt the following resolution:

To Submit the District Performance Review and Statement of Assurances New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum

Whereas the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education in the County of Hunterdon is undergoing evaluation under N.J.Q.S.A.C. for the 2011-2012 school year, and

Whereas N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2 (f) requires participating school districts to hold a public meeting to approve the submission of the District Performance Review responses and the Statement of Assurance with respect to this process, and

Whereas the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education in the County of Hunterdon has reviewed the District Performance Review responses and Statement of Assurance and hereby approves these documents.

Resolved that the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education does hereby authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the attached District Performance Review and Statement of Assurances to the Commissioner of Educations in compliance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2 (f).

2. Approval was given to employ Cynthia Bartlett as the Francis A. Desmares School Accompanist for the Winter Concert, January 26, 2012 at a rate of \$250.
3. Approval was given to accept the resignation of Mr. Joseph Zarish from the Board of Education, effective December 21, 2011.

The Board of Education thanked Mr. Zarish for his service to the Board. Ms. Foreman noted she will miss Joe.

4. Approval was given for Matheny Medical and Educational Center to conduct student evaluations during the 2011-2012 school year at a cost not to exceed \$1,000 per evaluation.

Aye:	Ms. Behn	Ms. Foreman	Nay:	0	Abstain:	0
	Dr. Bonieski	Ms. Mastellone				
	Dr. Copeland	Ms. McGivney				
	Mr. Davidson	Mr. Larmore				

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Copeland stated he received one letter from a community member who is interested in the Board vacancy.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Behn made an announcement regarding a scholarship opportunity. Dr. Copeland mentioned the Reading-Fleming Intermediate School concert dates and Mr. Vitellis' accomplishment. Mr. Davidson will be attending the Reading-Fleming Intermediate School concert.

CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD

Sue Vala, Teacher, made a statement that we can still negotiate regardless of the fact finding meetings.

Michelle Adcock, Teacher, shared a special moment of a student with the Board. She also stated Hunterdon County is the richest county in America and are some of the lowest paid.

Karin Alexanderson, Teacher, shared concert dates with the Board.

Terry Fielding, taxpayer and Teacher, shared her children's success and noted that Flemington-Raritan School District and Hunterdon Central are outstanding schools. She is proud to be a teacher as well as a parent. She urged the Board of Education to go back to the table to craft a fair agreement. The commitment of our teachers remains un-waivered.

On the motion of Ms. McGivney, seconded by Ms. Foreman, the meeting was adjourned, unanimously viva voce, at 8:01 p.m. to Executive Session in Room D111.

Be It Resolved, by the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education that it does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss the matters stipulated, in conformance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975.

FREA and FRAA Negotiations

The matters discussed will be made public when confidentiality is no longer required and formal action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a meeting to which the public has been invited.

The Board returned to public session at 8:41 p.m. in the Auditorium.

ADJOURN

On the motion of Ms. Mastellone, seconded by Dr. Bonieski, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Hope
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Upcoming Board Meetings

January 23 - Taxpayer's Guide to Education Spending, Education Foundation Research Committee Report

February 6 - Ethics Presentation

February 10 - Mid-Year Board Planning Session

February 27

March 5

March 19

April 2

April 16