

**FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD PLANNING SESSION
JANUARY 6, 2011
MINUTES**

The Board Planning Session of the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education was called to order in conformance with the "Sunshine Law" by Patrick Larmore at 6:07 p.m. in the Media Center at the J. P. Case Middle School.

Members Present

Michael Bonieski	Doris McGivney
Bruce Davidson	David Paulk
Janine Foreman	Joseph Zarish**
Laurie Markowski*	Patrick Larmore

Members Absent

Dennis Copeland

*Ms. Markowski arrived at 7:00 p.m.

**Mr. Zarish arrived at 6:29 p.m.

Also present: Gregory Nolan, Daniel Bland, Stephanie Hope, Laura Bruhn and Diane Morris of New Jersey School Boards Association.

Board Planning Session

Diane Morris-New Jersey School Boards Association was the Facilitator.

Strategic Plan

Mr. Nolan distributed a Strategic Plan document with a status update outlined within the report. Several items were discussed such as the iTouch Pilot at J.P. Case Middle School. The G&T Parent Survey and the Routers/Fiber was also discussed.

Board of Education Professional Improvement Plan – Diane Morris

Diane Morris reviewed the attached Improvement Plan. The Board discussed the items that were already under investigation. They include Teacher Assistant outsourcing, non-mandated busing options, negotiations, district advisory – childcare and summer recreation, administrative restructuring and facility use.

The Board does the best to prepare the budget without having the State information. The Board has clearly identified initiatives for cost savings. They have already begun communicating with the municipalities. The Board also discussed how to present the budget to the public. They will be cautious with the budget numbers until we have a handle on the revenue sources. Timelines have been outlined internally.

The Board discussed the prior year’s process. They questioned and reviewed the best way to present budget information to the full Board. Budget updates to the Board will be given through the committee structure.

Dr. Paulk left at 6:49 p.m.

The Board briefly discussed the negotiations process and the Boards role.

Budget Related Presentations

Mr. Nolan reviewed the budget presentations that have been or will be given to date.

- Budget timeline created
- Financial Audit
- Comparative Spending Guide
- Courtesy Busing
- Childcare

Mr. Nolan reviewed the attached Comparative Spending Guide.

Ms. Markowski arrived at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Bonieski suggested we consider comparing test scores together with cost per pupil costs. Mr. Larmore asked that enrollment and the number of buildings information should be compared to Hunterdon County and the top five. Mr. Larmore shared a synopsis of the municipal meeting. He stated the meeting started with sharing comparative spending guides. The current budget status as well as preliminary budget projections was reviewed with the municipalities as well. Mr. Davidson shared that the meeting then continued to discuss the non-mandated transportation concerns and options to consider. Mr. Nolan briefly reviewed the four options with the full Board. Ms. Bruhn gave the Board a recap of the process, members, fact finding, options and timelines for the childcare and summer recreation presentation. Mr. Nolan shared that he is still working on the administrative restructuring.

Superintendent and Board Evaluation

Ms. Morris gave a brief overview of the Superintendents evaluation process. She distributed a packet of information as a resource. Ms. Morris noted that the Board evaluation process is also now online. The Superintendents evaluation must be completed by April 30, 2011. The Board evaluation does not have a legal deadline. The Board discussed a tentative timeline for the Superintendent and Board evaluations. The full Board will finalize once they check their calendars. Dr. Bonieski suggested the Board together with the Superintendent should craft only four goals for the following year. The full Board agreed.

Other

Dr. Bonieski suggested we prepare a simple piece of communication to share why we are looking at non-mandated transportation.

ADJOURN

On motion of Ms. McGivney, seconded by Ms. Markowski, the meeting was adjourned, unanimously viva voce, at 8:17 p. m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Hope
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Upcoming Meetings

January 10, 2011

January 24

February 7

February 28

March 7

March 28

April 11