

**FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD PLANNING SESSION
SEPTEMBER 24, 2010
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 6:15 p.m. in room D111 at the J. P. Case Middle School.

Members Present

Michael Bonieski
Dennis Copeland
Bruce Davidson*
Janine Foreman

David Paulk*
Joseph Zarish*
Patrick Larmore*

Members Absent

Laurie Markowski
Doris McGivney

*Mr. Zarish arrived at 6:48 p.m., stepped out and re-entered at 6:57 and 6:58, respectively.

*Mr. Davidson left at 7 p.m.

*Mr. Larmore stepped out at 7:23 p.m. and returned at 7:25 p.m.

*Dr. Paulk left at 8:10 p.m.

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

Board Planning Session

Diane Morris was the Facilitator.

Ms. Morris began the session by asking the Board and Administrators for their expectations for the planning session. What do we want to accomplish? All participants helped identify expectations as listed below:

- New Board Members
- Assess where we are, where we are going
- What are our needs, what are we looking to accomplish this school year
- Share district goals, broad concepts
- Review progress from last year
- Get feedback on what we should be focusing on, driven by strategic plan

Self Evaluation

- QSAC – Board received self evaluation from NJSBA, Board completed this (see attachment)
- Board completed self evaluation, no areas are ineffective, as a result of tonight's discussion
- Board should identify Board professional improvement plan
- Every area was scored 3 or above; by receiving the self evaluation
- The Board now complies with QSAC requirement

Last Year's Goals (was supposed to be shared in January, 2010)

- Discussion ensued over specific action items
- Timeframe for completion of certain action items
- Update provided on overall plan

Presentation, Review and Discussion of this Year's District Goal Concepts

- Reviewed 7 District Goal concepts in great detail as attached.
- How do these 7 goal areas fit within or connect to the strategic plan? Are they separate or folded in? Project based learning fits under strategic plan Goal 1 and 2 (curriculum and instruction), Powerschool fits under Goal 3 (assessment); Right to Intervention is Goal 3 (assessment), PLC fits under Goal 4 (professional development); can't we work from one document?
- The goal concepts presented tonight are Board focused and it is built in the strategic plan as these are major initiatives: Right to Intervention, project based learning, PowerSchool and PLC's. Goal statements will be written with district-wide focus, eliminating references to individual schools) district goal concepts are just prioritized action items already built into the strategic plan.
- Proposed District Goal Concepts are items from the strategic plan that have risen to become the Board's focus and attention and to implement specific Strategic Plan actions for 2010.

- Expand Strategic Plan to include methods of assessment. The Board would like to work with just one document.
- Implementing and continually monitoring the implementation of the district’s Strategic Plan 2010-2015; may expand the strategic plan to include measurements of progress and indicators of success.

Board Relationships/Roles and Responsibilities – Improvement plan attached

- Discussion of critical challenges of Board and agree to function as a Board team
- Challenges Budget, Communication/Misinformation, Negotiations

Budget Challenges

- Board waits too long to make big decisions on big-ticket items, variables change too quickly; March is too late to make major decisions; trying to change (already passed TA contact; Courtesy Busing decision is coming up; investigating before and after-care, administration/supervision, shared services with high school, looking at technology, maintenance, curriculum); can’t make critical decisions in two-month period; whole Board should have understanding of budget components

Budget: Investigate cost-saving initiatives and make decisions prior to Winter/Spring Budget Process

- Board must establish timelines; identify topics for investigation
- Present opportunities for Board education of budget components and priorities; Board President and Vice Principal must sit with administration and prepare plan to address Board members
- Need for greater understanding of budget components (pie chart of line items), include calendar for ongoing review; too many variables (health care, % of salary raise) prevent effective communication; need to communicate year round about budget challenges; messages must be repeated.

Board Planning Session

- Board is committed to two yearly meetings. September and January? A January session will be planned.
- Topic: Board evaluation.

Board requested a plan for Board Goals/Board Action separate from public strategic planning updates.

ADJOURN

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Ms. Foreman, the meeting was adjourned, unanimously viva voce, at 8:22 p. m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregory T. Nolan

Upcoming Meetings

- October 18
- November 1
- November 15
- December 6
- December 20
- January 6 – Board Planning Session (snow date January 13, 2011)
- January 10, 2011
- January 24
- February 7
- February 28
- March 7
- March 28
- April 11