

**FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
BUDGET WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2010
MINUTES**

The budget work session of the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education was called to order in conformance with the "Sunshine Law" by Julie Bell at 6:11 p.m. in the Media Center of the Copper Hill School.

Members Present

Julie Bell	Michael Bonieski
Dennis Copeland	Janine Foreman*
Patrick Larmore	Laurie Markowski*
Doris McGivney	Joseph Zarish

Members Absent

Joseph Zarish
John Yankowski

*Ms. Markowski entered the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

*Ms. Foreman entered at 7:33 p.m.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mr. Nolan welcomed everyone to the budget work session of tonight's public meeting. He stated that tonight the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education will take the first hour of its public meeting to discuss the challenges related to the development of the 2010-2011 budget.

During the course of the past two and a half months, it has become very clear to the members of the Finance Committee and to the Administration that a significant budget gap will exist for 2010-2011. There are variables that need to be taken into account which could widen the gap between revenue and expenditures. These variables include state aid, contract negotiations, charter school enrollments and health insurance costs.

Over the past decade, Dr. Farr and the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Board of Education have done an excellent job of balancing the budget by making difficult decisions that streamlined procedures and programs in an effort to be responsible and efficient. Those reductions are no longer available to us for they have been factored into this year's budget.

The challenges we face are not unique to the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District, Hunterdon County or New Jersey, but rather every public, private or charter school in our nation is facing funding shortfalls.

This year the Board and Administration will make very difficult decisions in the areas of reduction and or elimination of line items. The Administration has been asked to drill down deeper into the budget in an attempt to identify the district's needs versus the district's wants. With the passing of the 2010-2011 budget comes the message that changes in the way we do business may be inevitable.

My responsibility as the Superintendent will be to make recommendations to the Board on reductions that will have the least amount of impact on our students, their instruction and related programs, maintain the integrity of the district mission, comply with state mandates and be responsible to all stakeholders.

The discussions that have taken place in the past and those that will take place tonight and in the coming weeks will help the Administration formulate priorities and narrow the focus as to how we can best serve our students during a time of national economic crisis.

With these thoughts in mind, I would like to now turn the floor over to our Business Administrator, Stephanie Hope.

Ms. Hope assumed leadership of the meeting. At this point in time, the district has not received information from the state. We do not know caps, aid or the calendar of due dates. It is expected that the governor will address these issues on March 16. There have been rumors that state aid will be decreased by \$672,228 and that our excess surplus of \$1.2 million may be used to offset the decrease in aid.

March 1 is the deadline for submitting petitions to become a board member.

Ms. Hope will update the Board as she becomes aware of information from the state.

Dr. Bonieski reviewed discussions that took place during the Finance Committee meeting. The discussions encompassed the amount of possible shortfalls and the attached budget work session agenda.

He then reviewed the attached pie chart which represents the 2009-2010 current budget. He then reviewed the attached mandated and non-mandated chart as presented during the 2008-2009 budget. The attached budget timeline was reviewed next.

Dr. Bonieski then began the discussion surrounding the district's needs and wants. He stated that the most important areas as discussed with the Finance Committee are those closest to students. Dr. Copeland asked Ms. Hope about budget projected shortfall and the percent of budget that is for salaries and benefits. Ms. Hope stated that the shortfall is estimated to be \$2+ million. Staff and benefits equal 78.2%.

Dr. Bonieski briefly reminded the Board about hazardous busing. He also discussed the need to review class size. If the Board chooses to increase class size through staff reductions, dollars could be saved.

The student participation fee was discussed. Estimated revenues are \$50,000. A presentation will be made by the Administration at RFIS and J. P. Case in February.

Reading-Fleming Intermediate School and J. P. Case are only budgeted amounts for extra-curricular. The average salary for discussion purposes for a full-time teacher is \$65,000 including the benefit package. Areas to consider as noted by Dr. Bonieski are maintenance projects and the student activity fee.

Ms. Bell suggested asking the PTOs to fund activities/athletics similar to how after-school activities are funded in the elementary schools. Ms. Bell would rather see this structure than force the Board to eliminate activities/athletics.

Dr. Copeland asked if the district has ever considered an early retirement incentive. Ms. McGivney believes the Board did offer some plan many years ago.

Dr. Bonieski asked the Board for guidance. Ms. Bell would like to look at administrators and secretaries for reconfiguration. Mr. Larmore stated that close to 80% of the budget is salaries and benefits, reductions will need to hit personnel. He noted we need to seriously look at class size and services. Ms. McGivney suggested we look at supplies as an area to cut. Ms. Markowski suggested we look at maintenance projects. Dr. Bonieski asked if there are areas that we could outsource. Ms. Bell noted we currently outsource custodial services, busing and food service. Mr. Nolan stated that a technology and personnel audit is underway.

Dr. Copeland stated with a rough estimate of \$2 million and staff estimated at \$65,000 per member, the Board would have to cut about 30 staff members.

Mr. Zarish had no comments at this time.

The Board returned to public session at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center of the Copper Hill School.

Ms. Bell read the attached letter of resignation from the Flemington-Raritan Board of Education from John Yankowski effective immediately.

Ms. Hope took over the meeting at this point for nominations for President of the Board.

Mr. Zarish asked that we defer nominations for President.

On motion of Mr. Zarish, seconded by Mr. Bonieski, solely for the purpose of discussion, a motion was made to defer the nomination for President of the Board.

Mr. Zarish stated that he has not had time to digest the resignation of Mr. Yankowski. Dr. Copeland asked if the law allows for the deferment. Ms. Hope and Mr. Nolan shared the policy. Ms. Hope noted that the Vice President will assume signature authority in the president's absence.

Ms. Hope called for a vote at this time on the motion on the floor.

Aye:	Mr. Zarish	Nay:	Ms. Bell	Dr. Bonieski	Abstain:	0
			Dr. Copeland	Mr. Larmore		
			Ms. Markowski	Ms. McGivney		

The motion did not carry.

Ms. Hope opened the nominations for President.

Ms. McGivney nominated Ms. Bell for President. Dr. Copeland seconded the nomination.

Mr. Zarish nominated Ms. Foreman. The motion was not seconded.

Ms. Hope closed the nominations.

On motion of Ms. McGivney, seconded by Dr. Copeland, Ms. Bell was nominated for President of the Board.

Aye:	Dr. Bonieski	Dr. Copeland	Nay:	Mr. Zarish	Abstain:	Ms. Bell
	Mr. Larmore	Ms. Markowski				
	Ms. McGivney	Ms. Markowski				

Ms. Bell was elected President and assumed leadership of the meeting. Ms. Bell opened nominations for Vice President of the Board.

Mr. Zarish nominated Mr. Larmore for Vice President. Dr. Copeland seconded the motion. Nominations were closed.

On motion of Mr. Zarish, seconded by Dr. Copeland, Mr. Larmore was nominated for Vice President of the Board.

Aye:	Ms. Bell	Dr. Bonieski	Nay:	0	Abstain:	Mr. Larmore
	Dr. Copeland	Ms. Markowski				
	Ms. McGivney					

Mr. Larmore was elected Vice President of the Board.

CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD

Erik Migliorino, Raritan Township, offered areas to consider for the budget shortfall. He suggested the Board look at health benefit changes, supplies and student teachers. He suggested looking at low lying fruits. He asked for more details on the budget and also asked that we consider shared services. Ms. Hope gave a brief overview and welcomes questions in the future.

Lisa Clemens, Raritan Township, suggested considering teens to help offset translator fees.

Ms. Foreman entered the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Nolan stated on Monday, January 4, 2010 the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) invited superintendents, business administration and leaders of the various teacher associations to a state-wide meeting which was held the next day. The purpose of the meeting was to announce the state’s pursuit of a competitive grant offered by the federal government grant entitled, “Race to the Top Fund”. The grant is part of the stimulus program and is designed to reward and encourage student achievement and support innovative school reform.

If New Jersey is awarded a portion of the grant, those districts who commit to participating are anticipated to receive either direct funding of additional services totaling between \$200-\$400 million. The NJDOE will be responsible for completing the

grant; however, they are encouraging all districts to submit a “Memorandum of Understanding” (MOU) and “Scope of Work” agreement which will commit the district to the principles contained in the grant proposal.

Tonight, Mr. Bland and I will be making a presentation to you. However, I must caution you that even with the information from last week’s meeting in hand and after several days of conducting additional research, many of our questions remain unanswered. I will be meeting with other superintendents tomorrow in an effort to gauge their level of interest and support of this grant.

I would like to point out to everyone this evening that there is a resolution on tonight’s agenda that asks for the Board of Education to participate in the NJDOE grant application. The signature page must be signed and submitted to state officials by January 14.

At this time, I would like to turn the floor over to Mr. Bland, our Assistant Superintendent.

Mr. Bland presented a detailed explanation of the “Race to the Top Fund” as attached.

Mr. Zarish asked when the district learned of the initiative. Mr. Bland noted he received the directive to attend the January 5 meeting on January 4.

Dr. Bonieski asked if a budget will be laid out. Mr. Bland stated that the state will do the grant application. The Board of Education has to sign the “Memorandum of Understanding” and agree to support the initiative.

Mr. Zarish asked what range of dollars the district could receive. Mr. Bland reviewed the slide outlining the allocation of direct payments over four years.

Dr. Copeland noted that on page 12, under the state responsibilities, to beware of costs for the district.

Mr. Nolan stated that he will be seeking out additional information regarding our agreement to participate.

Mr. Larmore expressed concern for future years lack of funding. Mr. Larmore asked for the administration’s opinion. Mr. Bland deferred to Superintendent Nolan. Mr. Nolan suggested we walk with the state with this endeavor but will continue to ask questions to be sure we can protect the district’s integrity and the right to change its mind.

PERSONNEL

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL:

Certified Staff – Appointments, Resignations & Leaves of Absence

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mr. Larmore, approval was given to amend the motion of December 14, 2009:

to employ Julie Gravett as leave replacement for Jessica McPeek, Grade 1 Teacher at Robert Hunter School, effective September 8, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Salary to be \$49,498 prorated based on Step 1 of the 2009-2010 teachers’ salary guide with a master’s degree and no public school experience. Ms. Gravett is a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and holds a Provisional Teacher certificate in Elementary K-5. Ms. Gravett is highly qualified for this position. Fingerprinting and health exam required.

to read:

to employ Julie Gravett as leave replacement for Jessica McPeek, Grade 1 Teacher at Robert Hunter School, effective September 8, 2009 through **February 8, 2010 and as leave replacement for Danielle Rynearson, Kindergarten Teacher at Robert Hunter School, February 9, 2010 through June 30, 2010.** Salary to be \$49,498 prorated based on Step 1 of the 2009-2010 teachers’ salary guide with a master’s degree and no public school experience. Ms. Gravett is a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and holds a Provisional Teacher certificate in Elementary K-5. Ms. Gravett is highly qualified for this position. Fingerprinting and health exam required.

Aye: Ms. Bell Dr. Bonieski Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Copeland Ms. Foreman
 Mr. Larmore Ms. Markowski
 Ms. McGivney Mr. Zarish

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mr. Larmore, approval was given to amend the motion of December 14, 2009:

to transfer Jessica McPeek, Grade 1 Teacher at Robert Hunter School, to leave replacement for Danielle Rynearson, Kindergarten Teacher at Robert Hunter School, effective February 8, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

to read:

to transfer Jessica **McPeek**, Grade 1 Teacher at Robert Hunter School, **to Kindergarten Teacher (filling vacancy of Danielle Rynearson)** at Robert Hunter School, effective February 8, **2010** through June 30, 2010.

Aye: Ms. Bell Dr. Bonieski Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Copeland Ms. Foreman
 Mr. Larmore Ms. Markowski
 Ms. McGivney Mr. Zarish

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mr. Larmore, approval was given to appoint William **Cahill** as Ten Month Vice Principal at J. P. Case Middle School, effective January 4, 2010 through June 30, 2010. Salary to be \$94,684.71 prorated.

Aye: Ms. Bell Dr. Bonieski Nay: 0 Abstain: Ms. McGivney
 Dr. Copeland Ms. Foreman
 Mr. Larmore Ms. Markowski
 Mr. Zarish

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mr. Larmore, approval was given to employ Matthew **Kosensky** as Grade 8 Science Teacher at J. P. Case Middle School, effective January 12, 2010 through June 30, 2010, pending certification. Salary to be \$46,298 prorated based on Step I of the 2009-2010 teachers' salary guide with a bachelor's degree and no public school experience. Mr. Kosensky is a graduate of Moravian College and is highly qualified for this position. Fingerprinting and health exam required.

Aye: Dr. Bonieski Dr. Copeland Nay: 0 Abstain: Ms. Bell
 Ms. Foreman Mr. Larmore
 Ms. Markowski Ms. McGivney
 Mr. Zarish

All Staff - Additional Compensation

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mr. Larmore, approval was given of the following agreement:

AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made this 11th day of January, 2010, by and between Linda Amato, Lisa Fitzsimmons and Susan Maloney ("the Employees"), the Flemington-Raritan Educational Association ("FREA") and the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education ("Board").

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, The Employees, Linda Amato, Lisa Fitzsimmons, and Susan Maloney have requested compensation for time worked beyond the contractual day accumulated prior to July 1, 2007. As of July 1, 2007, Article 10.D.c. states:

All unused compensatory time may be converted to sick leave at the end of each school year and added to a secretary's accumulated sick leave not to exceed 15 days. A total of two unused compensatory days may be carried over as accumulated personal leave for bereavement purposes for days over and above those set

forth in the bereavement leave clause. There can never be more than two days in this account. At the time of retirement, if there are one or two days remaining, they will be converted to accumulated sick leave for payment. In addition, if an employee exhausts all available accumulated sick leave days and requires these banked bereavement days, they shall be converted back to available sick leave.

WHEREAS, The Board is willing to grant the employees request, subject to certain terms and understandings; and

WHEREAS, The Association and the Employees are in agreement, and all parties wish to memorialize the terms of the agreement; now therefore be it

AGREED

1. Effective January 11, 2010, the Employees compensatory time accumulated prior to July 1, 2007 will be converted to sick time.
2. The Association and the Employees agree that this resolution is in settlement of all claims and grievances that could have been made with respect to the Employees' compensation for accumulated compensatory time prior to July 1, 2007, for anything that has happened until now, and that this resolution shall not establish or be evidence of a past practice.

Aye: Ms. Bell Dr. Bonieski Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Copeland Ms. Foreman
 Mr. Larmore Ms. Markowski
 Ms. McGivney Mr. Zarish

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mr. Larmore, approval was given to employ the following staff members for additional compensation during the 2009-2010 school year:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc	Purpose	Max. # of Hours	Rate
a.	Koch	Helen	FAD	Choir Chimes	24	\$29
b.	Balliano	Elizabeth	JPC	Parent/Teacher Conferences	1 evening	1/400 of annual salary per evening
c.	Petrucelli	Jason	JPC	Parent/Teacher Conferences	1 evening	1/400 of annual salary per evening
d.	Carmona	Eva	FAD	Spanish Translation	1	\$32
e.	Mitcheltree	Susan	CH	Home Instruction	70	\$29
f.	Alexanderson	Karin	RH	Winter Concert Chaperone	2	\$29
g.	Carroll	Mary Ellen	CH	Winter Concert Chaperone	2	\$29
h.	Enos	Susan	BS	Winter Concert Chaperone	2	\$29
i.	Golding	Dawn	BS	Winter Concert Chaperone	2	\$29
j.	Glanzmann	Deborah	RH	Winter Concert Chaperone	2	\$29
k.	Greenbaum	Amy	FAD	Winter Concert Chaperone	1.5	\$29
l.	Jones	Robert	RH	Winter Concert Chaperone	2	\$29
m.	Klein	Lea	FAD	Winter Concert Chaperone	1.5	\$29
n.	Koch	Helen	FAD	Winter Concert Chaperone	2	\$29
o.	Mayers	Marge	BS	Winter Concert Chaperone	2	\$29
p.	Petrucelli	Jason	JPC	Winter Concert Chaperone	3	\$29
q.	Reiter	Kim	CH	Winter Concert Chaperone	2	\$29
r.	Ryan	Jodi	FAD	Winter Concert Chaperone	1.5	\$29
s.	Sokoloski	Lydia	FAD	Winter Concert Chaperone	1.5	\$29
t.	Totten	Scott	CH	Winter Concert Chaperone	2	\$29
u.	Barbiche	Jennelle	JPC	Student Council Advisor	150	\$29
v.	Holthaus	Kimberly	JPC	Team Leader (replaces Cahill)	N/A	\$1,279.80

Aye: Ms. Bell Dr. Bonieski Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Copeland Ms. Foreman
 Mr. Larmore Ms. Markowski
 Ms. McGivney Mr. Zarish

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mr. Larmore, approval was given to pay Jessica **Kilgore**, Ten Month Vice Principal at J. P. Case Middle School, for ten unused vacation days, as per contract.

Aye: Ms. Bell Dr. Bonieski Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Copeland Ms. Foreman
 Mr. Larmore Ms. Markowski
 Ms. McGivney Mr. Zarish

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mr. Larmore, approval was given to adjust the stipend of the following J.P. Case Teachers for lunch duty as follows:

Last Name	First Name	From	To	Rate
Chalikis	Thea	Sept 9, 2009 –December 23, 2009	Sept. 9, 2009-June 30, 2010	\$1,921.14
Treonze	Sally	Sept 9, 2009 –December 23, 2009	Jan. 4, 2010-June 30, 2010	\$1,419.97

Aye: Ms. Bell Dr. Bonieski Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Copeland Ms. Foreman
 Mr. Larmore Ms. Markowski
 Ms. McGivney Mr. Zarish

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mr. Larmore, approval was given to amend the motion of August 24, 2009:

for Raymond Tasker, Grade 7 Science Teacher at J.P. Case Middle School Teacher to supervise lunch duty everyday during the 2009-2010 school year at a stipend of \$3,007.

to read

for Raymond Tasker, Grade 7 Science Teacher at J.P. Case Middle School Teacher to supervise lunch duty everyday during the 2009-2010 school year at a stipend of **\$1,169.39**.

Aye: Ms. Bell Dr. Bonieski Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Copeland Ms. Foreman
 Mr. Larmore Ms. Markowski
 Ms. McGivney Mr. Zarish

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mr. Larmore, approval was given to amend the motion of (5. i, m) of October 5, 2009:

to employ the following staff members for additional compensation during the 2009-2010 school year:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Purpose	Max. # of Hours	Rate
i.	Neuman	Melissa	JPC	Lunch duty every other “B” day 9/21/09-12/31/09 (replaces Sally Treonze)	N/A	\$533.12
m	Chardoussin	Katie	RF	CPR/AED Training	3	Hourly

to read:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Purpose	Max. # of Hours	Rate
i.	Neuman	Melissa	JPC	Lunch duty on “B” days 9/9/09 - 6/30/2010	N/A	\$1,503.50
m.	Chardoussin	Katie	RF	CPR/AED Training	3	\$32

Aye: Ms. Bell Dr. Bonieski Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Copeland Ms. Foreman
 Mr. Larmore Ms. Markowski
 Ms. McGivney Mr. Zarish

Substitutes

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mr. Larmore, approval was given to employ the following applicants as substitutes for the 2009-2010 school year pending criminal history background checks:

Last Name	First Name	Position (s)
Campisi	Kyle	Teacher
Danner	Jaime	Teacher
Kosensky	Matthew	Teacher
Lanza	Katrina	Teacher
Muller	Christopher	Teacher
Rich	Elisabeth	Teacher
Schoonover	Harold	Teacher
Vadehra	Charu	Renewal of Substitute Certificate
Taylor	Denise	Nurse, Teacher, Library Clerk

Aye: Dr. Bonieski Dr. Copeland Nay: 0 Abstain: Ms. Bell
 Ms. Foreman Mr. Larmore
 Ms. Markowski Ms. McGivney
 Mr. Zarish

Field Placements

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mr. Larmore, approval was given for the following students/teachers to observe classes in the district during the 2009-2010 school year:

Last Name	First Name	College/University/School
Johnson	Karen	Mendham Boro Middle School

Aye: Ms. Bell Dr. Bonieski Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Copeland Ms. Foreman
 Mr. Larmore Ms. Markowski
 Ms. McGivney Mr. Zarish

Professional Development/Travel

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mr. Larmore, approval was given of the following travel expenditures for staff members or their designated alternate 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.	Carmona	Eva	ESL Curriculum Development Workshop, Edison, NJ	Jan. 12, 2010	M	\$45
b.	Faherty	Heather	Eastern Division ACDA Conference, Philadelphia, PA	Feb. 11-12, 2010	R, M, L, F, O	\$700
c.	Goldman	Jill	NJAHPERD Conference, Long Branch, NJ	Jan. 26, 2010	R, M	\$200
d.	Heierling	Kimberly	Learning New Innovative Ways to Teach Puberty, Piscataway, NJ	Jan. 27, 2010	R	\$100

e.	Howell	Carol	Improving Classroom Instruction Through Focused, Strategic Feedback, Monroe Township, NJ	Feb. 9, 2010	R, M	\$175
f.	Judson	Tommie Lou	Poster Presentation, NJSNA Annual Conference, New Brunswick, NJ	Mar. 19, 2010	R, M, O	\$250
g.	Loreti	Daniel	Learning New Innovative Ways to Teach Puberty, Piscataway, NJ	Jan. 27, 2010	R	\$100
h.	Miller	Jeffrey	NJ Association of Gifted Conference, West Windsor, NJ	Mar. 5, 2010	R, M	\$225
i.	O'Brien	Megan	New Jersey State Bar Foundation: Teasing & Bullying, New Brunswick, NJ	Mar. 25, 2010	M	\$40
j.	Spencer	Jesse	Learning New Innovative Ways to Teach Puberty, Piscataway, NJ	Jan. 27, 2010	R, M	\$140
k.	Whorley	Shannan	2010 Northeast Conference on Teaching of Foreign Languages, NY, NY	Mar. 26, 2010	R, O	\$225
l.	Ziminski	Lori	2010 Northeast Conference on Teaching of Foreign Languages, NY, NY	Mar. 26, 2010	R, O	\$225

R = Registration Fee; M = Mileage; L = Lodging; F = Food; O = Other

Aye: Ms. Bell Dr. Bonieski Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Copeland Ms. Foreman
 Mr. Larmore Ms. Markowski
 Ms. McGivney Mr. Zarish

CURRICULUM

No report.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

No report from the Green Committee.

On motion of Ms. Markowski, seconded by Ms. McGivney, approval was given of the following resolution:

**A RESOLUTION BINDING THE FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
 TO PURCHASE NATURAL GAS SERVICES
 THROUGH THE ALLIANCE FOR COMPETITIVE ENERGY SERVICES (“ACES”) Bid
 Cooperative Pricing System ID#E8801-ACESCPS**

WHEREAS, the Alliance For Competitive Energy Services (hereinafter referred to as “ACES”), an alliance composed of the New Jersey School Boards Association (hereinafter referred to as “NJSBA”), the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, will from time to time during the Effective Period as defined below solicit bids from natural gas suppliers for retail natural gas supply services including interstate transportation to the local natural gas distribution utility company (Natural Gas Supply Services) through an energy aggregation program in which NJSBA will act as Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS in accordance with the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 *et seq.*, and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 *et seq.* (“EDECA”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the Flemington-Raritan Regional Schools district is a Participating member of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System and is eligible thereby to obtain natural gas services for its own use through one or

more contracts to be awarded to natural gas suppliers following said bids for natural gas services pursuant to the aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will from time to time during the Effective Period (from date of adoption through May, 2014, hereinafter referred to as “Effective Period”) issue one or more Requests for Bids for natural gas services on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law and EDECA; and

WHEREAS, due to significant volatility and the potential for price increases in the wholesale natural gas market, Participating Members will preauthorize the Lead Agency to award contracts for Natural Gas Supply Service in each service territory to one or more natural gas suppliers that submits bids which are reasonably forecasted to provide estimated savings to the Participating Member based upon its previous natural gas usage and utility provided Basic Gas Supply Service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will only award contracts for said Natural Gas Supply Services to natural gas suppliers that submit bids with pricing reasonably estimated to be lower than the utility-provided basic gas supply service; and

WHEREAS, the District agrees to purchase all Natural Gas Supply Services for its own use during the Effective Period through any natural gas supplier(s) awarded a contract, it being understood that the term of any one contract shall be subject to the provisions of Public School Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will notify the Department of Community Affairs’ Division of Local Government Services by mail prior to the issuance a Request for Bids for natural gas supply services, with the understanding that if the Division of Local Government Services does not respond within 10 business days, it will be deemed to have approved the issuance of the Request for Bids or the Request for Rebids.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District binds itself to the ACES Cooperative Pricing System ##E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all natural gas supply services needed for its own use during the Effective Period from the natural gas supplier or suppliers awarded a contract for natural Gas supply services by the Lead Agency; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase natural gas at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third-party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the contract or contracts by the Lead Agency on behalf of the participating members of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future), and provided further that all such contracts shall be at prices reasonably forecast and estimated by the Lead Agency to provide savings to the districts relative to the price charged for basic gas supply service by the natural gas public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that ACES is authorized to continue to bid to obtain natural gas services at any time during the Effective Period on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System including, for example, a rebid if energy market conditions do not initially lead to a successful bid, on additional dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. The authorization provided to the NJSBA pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)), and the Local Public and Public School Contracts Laws Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.) shall be valid until May, 2014 (the Effective Period) at which time the Cooperative Pricing System will be subject to renewal. Any rescission of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such rescission or expiration.

Aye: Ms. Bell Dr. Bonieski Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
Dr. Copeland Ms. Foreman
Mr. Larmore Ms. Markowski
Ms. McGivney Mr. Zarish

TRANSPORTATION

No report.

FINANCE

Ms. Foreman noted that she will reach out to the Township regarding the tax issue.

COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Ms. Markowski reported that the next meeting is January 27, 2010.

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION/LEGISLATIVE ADVISOR

Ms. Markowski reported that the next meeting is January 22, 2010.

POLICY

No report.

COMMUNICATIONS

The committee met last week to discuss input into the budget process.

MISCELLANEOUS

The following were reported:

Fire Drills to date for the 2009-2010 School Year:

Month	Fire Drills					
	BS	CH	FAD	JPC	RF	RH
Sept	9/15	9/15	9/15	9/15	9/14	9/23
	9/24	9/29	9/22	9/21	9/21	9/29
Oct	10/8	10/14	10/19	10/5	10/8	10/19
	10/20	10/19	10/26	10/20	10/21	10/26
Nov	11/16	11/12	11/4	11/2	11/16	11/10
	11/23	11/16	11/16	11/9	11/20	11/16
Dec	12/2	12/17	12/4	12/1	12/22	12/8
	12/15	12/18	12/18	12/8	12/23	12/21

Month	Code C					
	BS	CH	FAD	JPC	RF	RH
Sept						
Oct	10/21	10/15		10/9	10/16	10/17
Nov			11/2			12/11
Dec	12/10		1/7			

Out of School Suspensions for the month of December:

Reading-Fleming	Inappropriate behavior and physical contact with another student	One Day
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On motion of Dr. Copeland, seconded by Ms. McGivney, approval was given to accept the following donation:

Donor	School	Purpose/Assemblies	Date	Value
Anonymous	Barley Sheaf	Piano	12/10/09	\$750 (est.)

Aye: Ms. Bell Dr. Bonieski Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Dr. Copeland Ms. Foreman
 Mr. Larmore Ms. Markowski
 Ms. McGivney Mr. Zarish

On motion of Dr. Copeland, seconded by Ms. McGivney, approval was given to employ Lenore Cortina, consultant, to prepare and present a workshop entitled, "Projects for Gifted & Talented Students" on January 26, 2010 at a cost of \$400.

Aye:	Ms. Bell	Dr. Bonieski	Nay:	0	Abstain:	0
	Dr. Copeland	Ms. Foreman				
	Mr. Larmore	Ms. Markowski				
	Ms. McGivney	Mr. Zarish				

On motion of Dr. Copeland, seconded by Ms. McGivney, approval was given to employ Colleen Doogan, consultant, to prepare and present a workshop entitled, "Writing Strategies" to the Barley Sheaf School Grades 3-4 teachers on February 3 & March 30, 2010 at a cost of \$1,200 per day. Monies to be paid from the NCLB Title IIA Grant.

Aye:	Ms. Bell	Dr. Bonieski	Nay:	0	Abstain:	0
	Dr. Copeland	Ms. Foreman				
	Mr. Larmore	Ms. Markowski				
	Ms. McGivney	Mr. Zarish				

On motion of Dr. Copeland, seconded by Ms. McGivney, approval was given to employ Colleen Doogan, consultant, to prepare and present a workshop entitled, "Model Lessons" to the District Grades 1-2 teachers on February 24 and March 4, 2010 at a cost of \$1,200 per day.

Aye:	Ms. Bell	Dr. Bonieski	Nay:	0	Abstain:	0
	Dr. Copeland	Ms. Foreman				
	Mr. Larmore	Ms. Markowski				
	Ms. McGivney	Mr. Zarish				

On motion of Dr. Copeland, seconded by Ms. McGivney, approval was given to employ Colleen Doogan, consultant, to prepare and present a workshop entitled, "Writing Strategies" to the Francis A. Desmares School and Robert Hunter School Grades K-1 teachers on April 13, May 4, May 12, and June 1, 2010 at a cost of \$1,200 per day. Monies to be paid from the NCLB Title I Funds.

Aye:	Ms. Bell	Dr. Bonieski	Nay:	0	Abstain:	0
	Dr. Copeland	Ms. Foreman				
	Mr. Larmore	Ms. Markowski				
	Ms. McGivney	Mr. Zarish				

On motion of Dr. Copeland, seconded by Ms. McGivney, approval was given to accept students # 502742 and # 502744 into the Integrated Preschool Program at Copper Hill School at an annual tuition of \$3,000 to be prorated. Parents to provide transportation.

Aye:	Ms. Bell	Dr. Bonieski	Nay:	0	Abstain:	0
	Dr. Copeland	Ms. Foreman				
	Mr. Larmore	Ms. Markowski				
	Ms. McGivney	Mr. Zarish				

On motion of Dr. Copeland, seconded by Ms. McGivney, approval was given for Gretchen Ehret from Princeton Speech & Hearing to observe a student at J.P. Case Middle School on February 1, 2010.

Aye:	Ms. Bell	Dr. Bonieski	Nay:	0	Abstain:	0
	Dr. Copeland	Ms. Foreman				
	Mr. Larmore	Ms. Markowski				
	Ms. McGivney	Mr. Zarish				

On motion of Dr. Copeland, seconded by Ms. McGivney, approval was given of the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District to participate in the New Jersey Department of Education's grant application for the federal "Race to the Top" Program.

Aye:	Ms. Bell	Dr. Bonieski	Nay:	0	Abstain:	0
	Dr. Copeland	Ms. Foreman				
	Mr. Larmore	Ms. Markowski				
	Ms. McGivney	Mr. Zarish				

A discussion took place regarding concern with participating in the “Race to the Top”. NJEA does not support. Mr. Bland should withdraw options. Mr. Nolan recommends moving forward.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from attorney George Dilts regarding the issue with Brideside Adult Daycare. Ms. Hope updated the board on the situation.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Hope updated the Board on an incident today involving a special education van.

The Board reviewed the process to fill the vacancy on the board. They also briefly discussed the committee appointments. Ms. Bell will review.

CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD

No citizens addressed the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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.

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.

On motion of Ms. McGivney, seconded by Dr. Copeland, the meeting was adjourned, unanimously viva voce, to executive session at 8:27 p.m.

The Board returned to public session at 8:45 p.m.

ADJOURN

On motion of Ms. Markowski, seconded by Ms. McGivney, the meeting was adjourned, unanimously viva voce, at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Hope

Upcoming Board Meetings

January 15, 2010 – Board Planning Session, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., J.P. Case

January 25

February 8

February 22 – Budget Work Session, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

March – TBD – Budget Work Session, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

March 8

March 29

April 12

April 20 - School Elections

