

**FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 21, 2010
MINUTES**

The special session of the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education was called to order in conformance with the "Sunshine Law" by Julie Bell at 7:02 p.m. in the Media Center of the Copper Hill School, 100 Everitts Road, Ringoes, NJ.

Members Present

Dennis Copeland
Janine Foreman
Laurie Markowski
Joseph Zarish

Members Absent

Michael Bonieski

Bruce Davidson
Patrick Larmore
Doris McGivney
Julie Bell

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Nolan reviewed the history of how we came to the resolution to outsource the teacher assistants for the 2011-2012 school year. He noted that he had met with the teacher assistants at 4:00 p.m. today.

CITIZENS ADDRESSED THE BOARD

The Citizens Address the Board portion of the meeting was limited to a 30 minute session with a 2-minute limit for comments.

Michelle Cohn, Special Education Teacher, hopes we keep things the same. She hopes we decide to increase salaries for teacher assistants if outsourced. She also asked that we add training for new teacher assistants. She is grateful to have teacher assistants for this year. Ms. Cohn asked that we keep teacher assistants indefinitely.

Steve Barrett, Flemington Borough, stated this will be a crucial year to decide how other schools using outsourcing are working. He applauded the Board of Education for listening and acting in a democratic approach. He also publicly apologized to Mr. Davidson for being rude at the last meeting.

Kristen Boyce, Flemington Borough, thanked the Board. She asked what will make up the \$1.5 million. Mr. Nolan listed the items as attached.

Parent and employee Sher DeGenova asked questions about the resolution. She is concerned with the language that leaves it open for outsourcing in other areas.

Parent Robin Behn, Raritan Township, is very disappointed with the Board. She is appalled by the Board’s actions. She does not want the teacher assistants outsourced ever. She asked for Mr. Nolan’s resignation to save the teacher assistants. She stated that he has failed our children and shown a lack of leadership. She asked the Board to do the right thing for the children. The Board has blatantly disregarded the public’s voice.

Mr. Gary Marconi, Raritan Township, stated that the Board of Education is doing a great job in making tough decisions. He asked about salary adjustments. Mr. Nolan shared no comment. Mr. Marconi asked about roof needs and the costs. Ms. Hope responded it is not an immediate need for safety but the cost will go up. It was a decision we needed to make to save positions.

Dr. Copeland asked if the FREA took a freeze. Ms. Bell responded that they did not.

MISCELLANEOUS

On motion of Mr. Larmore, seconded by Mr. Davidson, approval was given to adopt the following resolution:

SUBCONTRACTING WITH ESC FOR 2011-2012

Whereas, As a result of (1) significant reductions in State aid; (2) the defeat of the Board's proposed budget by the voters of the District; and (3) additional cuts imposed by the governing bodies of the constituent municipalities, the District's available funds for school year 2010-11 are \$4,493,310 less than the funds available for the previous school year; and

Whereas, The District has made significant reductions in expenditure line items, to accommodate this extraordinary revenue decline; and

Whereas, Projections for 2011-12 and subsequent years reveal that there are structural deficits in the amount of revenue that will be available in those years, such that additional reductions will be necessary in future years; and

Whereas, Many of the reductions in expenditure line items which have been approved for the 2010-11 school year consist of postponements or other one time savings that will have to be made up and budgeted in future years; and

Whereas, In order to maintain the District's current outstanding educational programs, it is necessary to explore long term solutions and savings; and

Whereas, The Administration has identified projected savings of \$891,805 that would be realized by contracting with the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (ESC) for the delivery of certain services (including teacher assistant services) for the 2010-2011 school year; and

Whereas, The Board endorses the concept of subcontracting such services, but believes that additional time is needed to transition to the new provider; and

Whereas, Postponement of the full implementation of the subcontracting to the 2011-12 school year would allow for a more orderly transition; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board endorse and approve contracting with the Hunterdon County ESC for district wide services (including but not limited to instructional aide services); and be it further

Resolved, that the Administration and Board attorney be directed to negotiate and finalize a written contract with the ESC for presentation to the Board no later than September 30, 2010; and be it further

Resolved, that the written contract provide for transition planning and training during the 2010-11 school year and full implementation and contracting out of all covered services no later than the commencement of the 2011-2012 school year.

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

ADJOURN

On motion of Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. McGivney, the meeting was adjourned, unanimously viva voce, at 7:28 p.m.

Special Meeting

June 21, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Hope
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Upcoming Board Meetings – Copper Hill School

July 19
August 23
September 13
September 20
October 4
October 18
November 1
November 15
December 6
December 20
January 10, 2011
January 24
February 7
February 28
March 7
March 28
April 11