

**FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 24, 2010
MINUTES**

The regular session of the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education was called to order in conformance with the "Sunshine Law" by Julie Bell at 6:33 p.m. in the Principal's Office of the Copper Hill School, 100 Everitts Road, Ringoes, NJ.

Members Present

Michael Bonieski
Bruce Davidson
Doris McGivney
Julie Bell

Dennis Copeland
Laurie Markowski
Joseph Zarish

Members Absent

Janine Foreman
Patrick Larmore

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.

Personnel

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 Ms. Markowski, the meeting was adjourned, unanimously viva voce, to Executive Session at 6:33 p.m...

The Board returned to public session at 7:00 p.m.

On motion of Ms. McGivney, seconded by Ms. Markowski, minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2010 were approved, viva voce.

CITIZENS ADDRESSED THE BOARD

Resident Leslie Ried Green of Raritan Township questioned each line of the motion from the Township and Borough. Mr. Nolan reviewed each line. She asked we cut some of these before we cut Teacher Assistants.

Resident Kitty Ward of Raritan Township asked if anyone was here from Raritan Township. No one responded. She asked what a liaison to the Board of Education is. Mr. Nolan explained. Mrs. Ward asked if they are invited to our meetings. Mr. Nolan responded yes. Ms. Bell explained the defeat process.

Resident Stacy Colon of Raritan Township asked if the roof is still in the budget. Mr. Nolan said yes. He explained the charter school possibilities.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Nolan gave an overview of the teacher assistants plan for outsourcing.

Dr. Bonieski stated we are not taking an easy way out. It is because of a lack of communication between the Township and the Borough that we are forced to cut an additional \$1.5 million. Next year we will be discussing another issue regarding courtesy busing. We will give the Borough and Township time to prepare should we need to eliminate courtesy busing.

President Sue Vala of the FREA expressed the following concerns:

1. The lack of bid process.

2. Notified by way of RICE notice. Why did this unfold this way? They are under attack and all they do is stand up for the children. It is not the fault of the School Board. It is the fault of the Governor, the Township and the Borough. She believes there are other ways we can cut.

Special Education Teacher Michelle Cohen spoke positively about teacher assistants. No one comes to visit and see what these assistants do. We need continuity of staff. Why is this our only fix? What about computers, courtesy busing and the roof?

Resident Mark Legato of Raritan Township is appalled by what the Township and Borough did! He is very concerned. Why not outsource secretaries and administration.

Teacher Assistant Patty Force is most concerned with what the children will not be getting. Teacher assistants have helped save money by keeping special education in district. Not everyone is capable of doing what they do.

Teacher Assistant Christina Baxter loves her job. She does the worst of the jobs and now you want to privatize us and take our health benefits away. They are here for every single child in the school district. We are going to get people who don't care. You will get what you pay for!

Resident Joanne Elacqua of Raritan Township questioned why bus lists are on Google? Mr. Nolan stated that we will look into this issue immediately.

Then she stated the Township stated that \$1.5 million will not impact teachers. "What happened?" The township cuts seemed reasonable.

Teacher Assistant Michelle Adcock asked Dr. Bonieski why courtesy busing was pushed to next year while the lives of the teacher assistants were turned upside down. She feels betrayed. She read the Mission Statement. She wants the Board of Education to be an example. She is very upset.

Resident Noel Loweta of Raritan Township spoke about the devastating effect to the children and her child. She is scared because she is concerned who will help her son. She is concerned with the character of the people who will be attracted to this job.

Teacher Assistant Sheryl DeGenova is a parent of a child in a special education program in the district. Ms. DeGenova spoke about Flemington-Raritan School District's fine program. If we want to fulfill the Mission Statement, we must keep the teacher assistants. Education isn't a business; it's a relationship. She is asking the Board of Education not to destroy trust and show respect for the teacher assistants. They are very important.

Teacher Assistant Melinda Roethke cannot even imagine what the repercussions will be. She asked when and how we plan to notify the parents.

Special Education Teacher and Resident Lisa DeMuro said it might look good on paper but not a good idea. Teacher assistants are woven throughout the day with all students. This decision will affect all students. She wished she had been asked for input.

Parent Carol Gaibor asked the Board of Education to tell her son that he will not be mainstreamed.

Teacher Assistant Eileen Kobner considers these children her children. We don't understand what the teacher assistants do for the children. She is disgraced by the way the Teacher Assistants were notified. The Board of Education and the Administration should be ashamed.

Parent and Copper Hill Nurse Melanie Rosengarten is concerned with the replacement of the teacher assistants. She's alone as a nurse and relies on the teacher assistants to assist her. She is concerned for the safety of the children.

Teacher Judy Mandel has seen the district outsource many departments and it took nine plus years before we gained stability and control. She is concerned for the children.

Teacher Assistant Jennifer Ring hopes we take notice of children's faces as they see their aides. She wants to know why they were not told until the last minute. Mr. Nolan explained that it was the last thing we wanted to do. She asked if there is a

chance for reconsideration. Mr. Nolan said yes. It deserves a second look. He knows how difficult this is. Mr. Nolan noted he values and appreciates what you do and your passion.

Teacher Assistant Christine Malalis is proud to be a part of this district. She researched schools and found Flemington-Raritan School District to be top notch. She shared how she looks out for the safety of the children and takes great pride in her staff and student relationships. She appreciates the words but also wants to see it through actions.

Teacher Assistant Joanne Comfort asked if the Board of Education knows what a teacher assistant does. She reviewed the duties of a teacher assistant. She is concerned with a revolving door. She said the Board of Education is sending a message that sports are more important.

Resident Gary Marconi of Raritan Township asked for clarification on the budget motion. Ms. Hope explained. Mr. Marconi asked if we can do something such as cut sports, cut courtesy busing or even to ask to the teachers to take a freeze. It is very upsetting and will impact kids.

Resident Michelle Oberst of Flemington Borough stated that the recommendations do not affect special education students. She and her representatives are very disappointed. Mr. Nolan shared his concerns with the process. The Flemington Borough, Raritan Township and the Flemington-Raritan School District need to share in this issue.

Teacher Cindy Carson expressed concern with the lack of teacher assistants. As a teacher, she cannot provide quality learning without the support of the teacher assistants. Teacher Assistants need to be accorded the pay and respect they deserve. They are professional.

Teacher Karin Alexanderson invited the Board of Education to visit her classroom and only one member came. She is very upset with so many cuts. She asked if any Board of Education member spent a day with a teacher assistant. She asked the Board of Education to step back and take another look. She suggested they get first hand information to make an informed decision.

Resident Carol Storr of Raritan Township stated she is not proud of the Board. She cannot believe the Board of Education will cut the whole department. She is concerned with who will be teaching.

Dr. Copeland reminded the citizens that we need to be respectful.

Teacher Kay Mazzetta said she has never seen anything like this. She asked where else the Board of Education has looked. Mr. Nolan reviewed. She wants us to look harder at the administration in Central Office.

Parent Meghan Quick is thrilled with the progress her student has made and is very concerned.

Speech Therapist and Resident Deborah Hart cannot fulfill her mission without these people. The Board of Education has trained these people.

PTO President Nancy Connolly of Francis A. Desmares helps to raise money and is heartbroken that teacher assistants will be cut. The PTO's support teachers, the Board of Education and the Administration. Why would you take something so vital? She asked that the Board of Education reconsider and come up with something creative.

Husband Michael Elridge of a teacher assistant is upset with the cuts we are making.

Parent Adelle Pilato echoed all that has been said. She wanted to focus in on the long-term relationship that these students have with the teacher assistants.

Parent Ellen Hallerback shared how her child has blossomed in the program. She is concerned that we will not have continuity. Her daughter also spoke. She said she would be sad. She asked that they please be allowed to keep their jobs.

Parent Elli Kuras has a child in the autism program. Ms. Kuras spoke emotionally about what great progress her child has made in the program. It is extremely difficult to fathom how this can be possible. She asked the Board of Education to reconsider. She doesn't want anyone to lose jobs but if someone does, why not a secretary. Teacher Assistants directly impact children.

Teacher Denise Dawes is very impressed with that teachers and teacher assistants do. These people are her heroes. She is appalled at this proposal.

Resident and Teacher Assistant Jean Manz is very upset with these cuts. She asked if the roof and computers will still move forward. Mr. Nolan said yes but may need to cut to pay for charter school if it opens.

Steve Barrett, Flemington Borough resident, asked what items were referred to earlier as contracted services. Mr. Nolan restated health benefits and custodial cleaning. He asked the room to remember what the Township and Borough had done next November.

Resident Mark Legato of Raritan Township asked the Board to consider holding on the teacher assistants and use the roof and computer monies.

Husband John Hyman of a teacher assistant stated he was very proud when his wife was given a letter several years ago complimenting her efforts. How should she feel now? He said we should ask the municipalities to budget for the charter school.

Kathy Sorg, Raritan Township resident, asked the board to replace equipment at presentations because it didn't work. She asked the Board to consider cutting administration not teacher assistants.

Ron Tonge, resident and husband of a teacher, stated that we should not outsource core items such as Teacher Assistants. He asked what will be the relationship with ESC. What will the next several years look like?

Mr. Nolan explained the relationship we will be seeking with ESC. Readington Township will be exploring the same avenue. The ESC will be receiving a 5% administration fee. ESC will give our staff first options for positions. Mr. Nolan also noted future savings. He is also concerned with the unknown outcome of changes. ESC will grant us final say in hiring. There is an opportunity to discuss.

Ron Tonge asked about the Facility Use Policy. Mr. Nolan shared it will be on the next agenda.

Dr. Copeland explained that we will be faced with a major deficit next year. People need to vote. It is the obligation of everyone to vote.

Teacher Assistant Diana Hart said she was very disappointed by a blanket letter. She wants a year notice like we will be giving courtesy busing students and the municipalities. She feels she was misled and feels slapped in the face.

Teacher Deborah Griffith stated she left ESC to come back to Flemington-Raritan School District. She is very concerned with ESC.

Teacher Tina Huff begged the Board to reconsider cutting 66 of the best people this district has.

Parent Katherine Klemson said having a contract with ESC looks tempting but we will lose a team! Contracted services will destroy the programs we have here at Flemington-Raritan School District.

Teacher Assistant Christina Baxter asked what their jobs will be, the hours and the pay. Mr. Nolan noted 6.5 hours a day and the pay is still being discussed. She invited the Board of Education to visit their classes.

Teacher Assistant Jennifer Ring told Mr. Nolan that he just said 6.5 hours says teacher assistants are not worth it. Mr. Nolan shared economics. He does value teacher assistants.

Teacher Rebecca Kwiatek asked how we will cover IEPs. Mr. Nolan noted we may stagger schedules or hire additional staff.

Teacher Assistant Eileen Kobner stated that there has to be another way. Children need these services.

Parent Katherine Hindal stated that special education is very difficult. The needs vary and they need quality people to handle these needs. The quality of teacher assistants deserves benefits. We should be careful when watering things down. These are safety issues for all students. She requested that we reconsider.

Resident Joanne Elacqua of Raritan Township asked about other districts engaging in these scenarios. Mr. Nolan explained where the process is with Readington. She asked about the budget motion on the agenda. Ms. Hope reviewed the process, transfers and budget motion. Ms. Elacqua urged the Board of Education to revisit the municipality list.

Teacher Jennifer Renda read a note on behalf of a parent. The parent was concerned that the Board of Education was only focused on the money.

Ms. Bell thanked everyone for expressing their concerns.

Dr. Bonieski asked if line items need to be specified. Ms. Hope will investigate.

REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF SCHOOL MONIES

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education accept the monthly financial reports of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of March 2010 and further certifies that no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of 6A: 23-2.11(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s known financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year 2009-2010.

I, Stephanie Hope, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary certify that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of 6A:23-2.11(a), as of March 31, 2010. As of these dates, sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s known financial obligations for the remainder of school year 2009-2010.

On motion of Ms. McGivney, seconded by Mr. Davidson, approval was given to accept the Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for the month of March 2010.

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

PERSONNEL

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL:

Certified Staff – Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mrs. Markowski, approval was given for the following staff members to take a maternity leave as follows:

Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Leave	Date(s)
Chardoussin	Katie	RF	Disability Leave Family Leave/NJ Paid	October 18, 2010-November 29, 2010 November 30, 2010-January 14, 2011
Laning-Beder	Allison	RF	Disability Leave Family Leave/NJ Paid Childcare Leave	September 2, 2010-October 29, 2010 November 1, 2010-January 28, 2011 January 31, 2011- June 30, 2011

Mason	Erin	CH	Disability Leave Family Leave Childcare Leave	September 2, 2010-October 4, 2010 October 5, 2010-December 23, 2010 December 24, 2010-January 31, 2011
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Aye: Dr. Bonieski Dr. Copeland Nay: 0 Abstain: 0
 Mr. Davidson Ms. Markowski
 Ms. McGivney Mr. Zarish
 Ms. Bell

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mrs. Markowski, approval was given to amend the 2009-2010 salary of Elizabeth Smith, Support Skills Teacher at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School, from \$57,808 to \$60,008 to reflect the attainment of a master’s degree, effective March 8, 2010.

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

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mrs. Markowski, approval was given to amend the 2009-2010 salary of Tracey MacRitchie, Grade 1 Teacher at Copper Hill School, from \$50,968 to \$53,168 to reflect the attainment of a master’s degree, effective April 25, 2010.

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

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mrs. Markowski, approval was given of the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Cynthia Bartlett, Instrumental Music Teacher at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School, effective June 30, 2010.

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

Non-Certified Staff – Appointments, Resignations & Leaves of Absence

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mrs. Markowski, approval was given to employ the cafeteria aides for the 2010-2011 school year, salary pending negotiations, effective July 1, 2010, as per attached Appendix J.

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

All Staff – Additional Compensation

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mrs. Markowski, 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.	Agabiti	Joseph	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
b.	Assini	Andrew	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
c.	Baills	Colette	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
d.	Boelhouwer	Peter	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
e.	Casazza	Cynthia	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
f.	DiLuzio	Elizabeth	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
g.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
h.	Hallinan	David	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
i.	Holthaus	Kimberly	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
j.	Horowitz	Steven	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
k.	Lanza	Maria	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
l.	Neuman	Melissa	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
m.	Southern	Kristina	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
n.	Tobin	Jennifer	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
o.	Tormey	Richard	JPC	Chaperone-8 th Gr. Celebration	3.5	\$29
p.	Totten	Scott	CH	Spring Concert	2	\$29
q.	Barbiche	Jennelle	JPC	Home Instruction	60	\$29
r.	Chardoussin	Katie	RFIS	ESY Teacher Asst.	50	\$22.43
s.	Madlinger	Marybeth	RFIS	ESY Teacher Asst.	50	\$22.43
t.	Malzberg	Sharon	JPC	Summer Health Office Prep	70	Hourly
u.	Matuszkiewicz	Angela	CH	APA Testing	10	\$32
v.	Mitcheltree	Susan	CH	Home Instruction	60	\$29

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

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mrs. Markowski, approval was given to amend the motion 3.j of February 22, 2010:

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
j.	Caiazza	Michael	RH	Spring Concert	2	\$29

to read:

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
j.	Marino	Jennifer	RH	Spring Concert	2	\$29

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

Substitutes

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mrs. Markowski, approval was given of Appendix P, Substitute List for the 2010-2011 school year.

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

Field Placements

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mrs. Markowski, approval was given for the following field placements for the 2010-2011 school year:

Candidate College/Univ.	Cooperating Teacher	Loc/Position	Dates
Patricia Coral/Rider	Daniel Shirvianian Lindsey Montgomery	RFIS/Grade 5	9/7/10-12/10/10
Daniel Doo/Rider	Karin Deneka	RFIS/Grade 5	9/7/10-12/10/10
Nicole DiLeone/Rider	Brenda Roth Lindsay Force	RFIS Grade 5/6	9/7/10-12/10/10
Jennifer Foust/Rider	Melissa Latanzio	RFIS/Grade 5	9/7/10-12/10/10
Jenna Godwin/Rider	Anthony Benedetti	CH/PE	9/7/10-12/10/10
Jennifer Levine/TCNJ	Lisa Hutchison	CH/ Grade 2	9/7/10-12/17/10
Lauren Salerno/Rider	Erin Whelan Beth Casal	RFIS/Grade 5	9/7/10-12/10/10

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

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

Item	Last Name	First Name	College/University/School
a.	Kneckle	Kris	Rutgers University
b.	Scanlan	James	University of the Arts, Philadelphia

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

Certified Staff – Appointments, Resignations & Leaves of Absence

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Mrs. Markowski, 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.	Lucchetto	Laura	CH	May 28, 2010
b.	Moore	Jeff	CH	May 28, 2010

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

CURRICULUM

No report.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

On motion of Ms. Markowski, seconded by Mr. Davidson, approval was given to award the bid for Fire Alarm/Detection System/Sprinkler Systems – Inspection Testing and Maintenance to Total Fire Safety in the amount of \$28,480 for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years and a scheduled Hourly Overtime Rate of \$114 and an Emergency Hourly Rate of \$98. The following bids were received:

Vendor	2010-2011	2011-2012	Scheduled Hourly Overtime Rate	Emergency Hourly Rate
Total Fire Safety	\$28,480	\$28,480	\$114	\$98
Kistler O’Brien Fire Protection	\$31,263	\$25,644	\$110	\$150
SimplexGrinnell LP	\$33,185	\$33,185	\$98	\$115
City Fire Equipment Co.	\$40,000	\$44,000	\$175	\$175
S. A. Comunale Co. Inc.	\$43,000	\$45,150	\$160	\$160
Seaboard Welding Supply, Inc.	\$44,667	\$44,667	\$120	\$160

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

TRANSPORTATION

No report.

FINANCE

The following motion was tabled:

Approval of the following resolution:

**FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
 A RESOLUTION CONCERNING
 GROUP PRESCRIPTION DRUG INSURANCE**

Per the recommendation of its group insurance broker-of-record, Grinspec Consulting, a division of Brown & Brown, the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education hereby resolves effective July 1, 2010 to make the following changes to its group insurance programs:

1. Terminate its group prescription drug insurance policy with GS-POPS/Pan-American Life, plan number 3187.
2. Select Benecard Services, Inc. as its group prescription drug insurance carrier, at the rates, benefits, terms, and conditions represented in the report from Grinspec Consulting.
3. Designate Grinspec Consulting as the Board’s group insurance broker-of-record for our new Benecard Services, Inc. group prescription drug insurance program.

Grinspec Consulting is authorized to act on behalf of the Board in all matters related to this program. Grinspec Consulting’s responsibilities will include – but are not limited to – negotiating annual renewal rates, marketing our group insurance programs, and aiding our staff in the resolution of billing, enrollment, and claim problems.

Grinspec Consulting is authorized to receive commission payments from Benecard Services, Inc. as compensation for their services, percentages for which are included in Benecard’s proposed premium rates.

- 4. All appropriate staff are authorized to take such action and affect such documentation as necessary to implement this change.

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Ms. McGivney, approval was given of the attached transfer list.

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

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Ms. McGivney, approval was given of the attached bill list totaling \$3,279,921.81.

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

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Ms. McGivney, approval was given of the following resolution as amended:

BUDGET FAILURE REDUCTIONS

WHEREAS, the **Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education** submitted the 2010-2011 budget to the legal voters of Flemington Borough and Raritan Township on April 20, 2010 for approval, and

WHEREAS, the budget was defeated at the polls by 427 votes, and

WHEREAS, the **Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education** met with representatives of Flemington Borough and Raritan Township to review the budget and agree on budget reductions, and

WHEREAS, Flemington Borough and Raritan Township council(s) have met and passed resolutions to decrease the 2010-2011 budget by \$1,531,047 and certified the general fund tax levy to be collected for the 2010-2011 school year in the amount of \$42,610,823,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education** will reduce the 2010-2011 in the amount of \$1,531,047.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education** directs the Business Administrator to make the necessary adjustments in the 2010-2011 budget and forward the revised documents to the proper agencies.

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

COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION/NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION/LEGISLATIVE ADVISOR

Ms. Markowski reviewed upcoming meetings and past meeting topics. NJSBA will be reducing dues.

POLICY

Ms. Markowski reviewed the following policies for first reading. The Facility Use Policy and Regulations will be reviewed at the next policy meeting.

3351/4351 – Healthy Workplace Environment (New)

Many school districts have requested a Policy concerning workplace harassment/bullying beyond current policies concerning Federal and State anti-discrimination laws that afford numerous legal protections to employees in protected classes or to employees because of the worker's protected activities. This conduct is based on extensive research and publications in the area of workplace bullying. Unsuccessful legislation, New Jersey Assembly Bill A-1551 introduced in 2008, attempted to legislate the "New Jersey Healthy Workplace Act." This proposed Act defined "abusive conduct" in the workplace, made it unlawful for an employer to subject an employee to abusive conduct or to permit an abusive work environment, and exposed employers to financial penalties. Although there is no Federal or New Jersey law prohibiting such conduct, claims regarding allegations of such conduct have resulted in employers defending themselves or an employee (usually a supervisory staff member) in civil litigation or in a workers' compensation matter. Policy Guides 3351/4351 have been developed to align with the definitions as outlined in A-1551, but does not include the consequences for an employer as outlined in the failed bill. The only difference between the two guides is in the first sentence. The proposed Policy Guides require a written, detailed report be filed and an investigation be conducted. It is recommended the Board's attorney review these Policy Guides in the event the district is interested in adopting Policies on this issue. A district interested in adopting this or a similar policy has flexibility in making revisions to these guides as there is no law covering such conduct.

Policy Guides 3351/4351 are **SUGGESTED**

5533 – Pupil Smoking (New)

Policy Guide 5533 has been revised to reflect the "New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act." The new Act, as it pertains to pupils, is not much different than the statutes they replaced. However, the revised Policy Guide includes several new options regarding the filing of a complaint and the option of requiring educational programs for pupils who violate the Policy or law. In addition, a new Regulation Guide has been developed. Policy Guide 5533 is mandated, while Regulation Guide 5533 is suggested.

Policy Guide 5533 is **MANDATED**

Policy 3159 – Teaching Staff Member/School District Reporting Responsibilities (New)

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.1 – Certificate holder has been recently revised requiring all certificate holders to report their arrest or indictment for any crime or offense to the Superintendent of Schools within fourteen calendar days and report the disposition of any charges within seven calendar days of the disposition. Failure to comply with these requirements may be deemed "just cause" for revocation or suspension of a certificate. This new Policy guide also outlines the superintendent's reporting/notification requirements when a teaching staff member is accused of criminal offenses or unbecoming conduct and resigns or retires from their position in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.4. In addition, the code requires the district make these reporting requirements known to all new employees and to all employees on an annual basis. This new code requirement only addresses certificated staff reporting requirements and does not address non-certificated staff. This new Policy Guide has been developed to include these requirements and although it is not mandated by Code or Statute, it is recommended to be included in a district's Policy Manual.

Policy Guide 3159 is **RECOMMENDED**

On motion of Ms. Markowski, seconded by Mr. Davidson, approval was given of the following revised and mandated policies:

6660 – Student Activity Fund (Revised)

The New Jersey State Board of Education adopted N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16 through 22 at the November 2009 State Board of Education Meeting. N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.12 – Student Activity Funds has been revised requiring an updated Policy Guide 6660 – Student Activity Fund. The updated administrative code requires additional requirements in the implementation of a student activity account. Due to the extent of the additional requirements, a new Policy Guide has been developed to replace the current Policy Guide. The new code is very specific in the tasks that must be completed in administering student activity accounts.

7434 – Smoking On School Grounds (Revised)

Policy Guide 7434 has been revised to reflect the “New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act.” The new Act, as it pertains to non-pupils, is not much different than the statutes they replaced. However, the revised Policy Guide includes a new option regarding the filing of a complaint for persons who violate the Policy or law.

8461 – Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Alcohol, and Other Drug Abuse (Revised)

Policy Guide 8461 has been revised to require the district report describing an incident regarding an act of violence or vandalism, possession or distribution of alcohol, drug use on school grounds, or a school employee’s report of a pupil suspected to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs must be approved by the Board of Education. One district reported their QSAC monitors recommended the Board’s approval of the district form should be included in the language of Policy Guide 8461.

THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTABILITY POLICY AND REGULATION GUIDE REVISIONS ARE REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF THE READOPTION OF N.J.A.C. 6A:23A, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 21, 2009:

0142.1 – Nepotism (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2 was revised to clarify the issue permitting a relative of a Board member or Superintendent to continue to be employed or “to be promoted” in the district if the relative was employed by the district on the effective date of the Policy or the date the relative becomes a Board member or Superintendent. The more significant revision provides the Board an option to employ a relative of a Board member or Superintendent with approval of the Executive County Superintendent upon demonstrating the district conducted a thorough search and the proposed candidate is the “only qualified and available person for the position.” Districts wanting this option should include this optional code language in their Policy.

0174 – Legal Services (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2 was revised with several significant revisions regarding legal services. Districts with legal costs that exceed 130% of the Statewide average per pupil amount should establish the procedures outlined in 1 through 4 on page 2 of the Policy Guide unless these districts can provide “evidence that such procedures would not result in a reduction of costs...” There should be some additional guidance from the Department of Education on the districts that fall into this category and the evidence required to not implement these procedures. All other districts are required to establish procedures to “ensure the prudent use of legal services...” For these districts it is recommended the Board continue to designate contact persons and designate an administrator to review all legal bills and confer with the contact persons in reviewing such bills. In addition, the new revised code clarifies the issue regarding the use of Request for Proposals (RFPs) in issuing contracts for legal services.

0177 – Professional Services (Revised)

The N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2 revision that clarifies the use of RFPs in issuing contracts for legal services is applicable to all professional service contracts and also requires a revision in Policy Guide 0177 Professional Services.

1570 – Internal Controls (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.6 has been revised deferring the implementation date for a school district to establish standard operating procedures for each task or function of the business operations of the school district from July 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.8 has been revised deferring the implementation date for a district to maintain a position control roster from July 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. Policy Guide 1570 has been revised to reflect these revisions.

6471 – School District Travel (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 regarding school district travel has been revised in several minor areas:

- N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.5 – Required documentation for travel has been revised to remove “justification of the importance of these individuals attending the event” and “a copy of the agenda or itinerary for travel and

subsequent schedule of events.” Also, “justification” in addition to a brief statement is required in a travel request and some additional details are required for certain training events.

- N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.12 – Meal allowance has been revised regarding the school district’s requirements to acquire quotes for light meals and refreshments only “if required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.”

Policy Guide 6471 has been revised to incorporate these minor revisions.

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

On motion of Ms. Markowski, seconded by Mr. Davidson, approval was given of the following revised and recommended policies:

1620 – Administrative Employment Contracts (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1(e)12 was revised to correct an incorrect legal citation in the previous administrative code section from N.J.S.A. 18A:17-51 to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-15.1. Policy Guide 1620 has been revised to reflect this code revision.

9700 – Special Interest Groups (Revised)

There have been several inquiries requesting guidance in the area of distribution of literature to or through pupils. Several districts have developed internal policies on this subject over the past several years. Policy Guide 9700 has been revised to include several options on this issue. A district may prohibit the distribution of material by every outside school organization or the Policy Guide provides an option to permit distribution for local, State, County, or Federal agencies with a secondary option for community non-profit organizations. The Guide includes criteria and an approval process for such distribution. This Guide does not provide an option for literature distribution requested by private or for-profit organizations as we have found this to be prohibited as standard practice. Several additional revisions are included in this Guide that provide better clarity and are consistent with N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4.

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

On motion of Ms. Markowski, seconded by Mr. Davidson, approval was given of the following policies/regulations which have been revised to reflect current practices:

Policy 3124 – Employment Contract

Policy 3125/ 4125 – Employment of Teaching Staff Members/ Employment of Support Staff Members

Policy 3432/4432 – Sick Leave

Policy 3450 – Staff Recognition

Policy 7440 & Regulation 7440 – Security of School Premises

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

COMMUNICATION

Dr. Copeland stated that student recognitions will continue at Board of Education meetings.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Bland briefly explained the “Round Two” application for the Race to the Top grant. He outlined how much money could be realized and how it would be spent.

Ms. Hope asked if the Board has to approve. Mr. Bland stated no. Mr. Davidson asked if this commits our board to spending our dollars in the future. Mr. Bland shared that there is no indication. He also shared that the Board can opt out at a later date as well. Mr. Bland shared a number of things that look valuable but there are also several controversial issues.

Ms. McGivney is not in favor of merit pay.

Dr. Bonieski asked if we have control over the process. Mr. Bland responded that he does not believe so. This will be a state-run program.

Mr. Zarish asked if there are items that we may save money on and what is the purpose. Mr. Bland said that it is very difficult to answer questions at this time. We do not have enough information.

Mr. Davidson said we should opt for it and opt out later if needed.

Dr. Bonieski as if the NJEA needs to approve it. Mr. Bland said that NJEA does need to support this grant in order for the state to apply... Mr. Nolan stated that in the past it has not been supported by NJEA.

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Ms. Markowski, approval was given to accept a donation from the RFIS PTO in the amount of \$1,250 to pay for an author visit assembly by Pamela Swallow for 5th and 6th grade students.

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

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Ms. Markowski, approval was given for the following special education students to attend summer ESY programs at the schools indicated. Transportation to be provided by the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District.

Student ID	School	ESY Dates	ESY Tuition
8861684276	Matheny Medical and Educational Center	7/1-8/27/10	\$16,400
8719620596	Matheny Medical and Educational Center	7/1-8/27/10	\$16,400
5763874297	Mercer County SSSD Elementary School	7/12-8/16/10	\$7,462
7228374420	Mercer County SSSD Regional Day School	7/12-8/16/10	\$5,902
5307550098	NJ Regional Day School-Jackson	7/1-8/5/10	\$4,150
6156968182	The Lakeview School	7/1-8/12/10	\$11,800

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

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Ms. Markowski, approval was given for the Philadelphia Zoo to present “Born in the U.S.A.” to extended school year students at Copper Hill School on July 16, 2010 for a fee of \$475. Funds to be provided by IDEA-ARRA Grant.

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

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Ms. Markowski, approval was given to contract with Children’s Therapy Services, Inc. to provide physical therapy services effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for up to 65 hours per week at \$89 per hour.

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

On motion of Dr. Bonieski, seconded by Ms. Markowski, approval was given to participate in the State of New Jersey’s round two application for the United States Department of Education’s Race to the Top grant.

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

*Dr. Bonieski voted yes on the motion to participate in the State of New Jersey’s round two application for the United States Department of Education’s Race to the Top grant as long as we can opt out at anytime.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Bell thanked all those who have emailed or spoken with us during the budget process.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. McGivney noted Marge Mayers was not honored for an award. Mr. Nolan will look into this.

NEW BUSINESS

The new Board Committee appointments were assigned, as attached.

Dr. Bonieski asked about the Board Self Evaluation. Ms. Bell spoke with Diane Morris. The evaluation will be discussed at the last meeting in June.

CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD

Parent and Resident John Hill of Raritan Township shared budgeted items change over several years. He expressed concern to keep courtesy busing. Mr. Hill also mentioned that the Township and Borough did not have a lot of time to review. Ms. Bell explained the timeframes and the process. She once again expressed concern over the lack of communication.

Dr. Bonieski expressed concern over the decision regarding courtesy busing. It is a very delicate matter regarding the safety of children. The Administration and the Board of Education are faced with difficult decisions. The municipalities failed to become informed and the problems start with the Governor. We are not callous people but are in a bad situation.

Mr. Zarish is against eliminating courtesy busing.

Ms. McGivney is very proud of the District and it is hard to hear all the comments.

Carol Storr stated that no matter what we cut, someone will be unhappy.

Elli Kuris, parent, is very concerned for the unknown and has a lot of emotion regarding the future.

Mr. Nolan stated we need to be careful not to assume the worst. We are looking at all aspects of what this change will mean.

Ms. Hope shared we are human too. Although she is the Business Administrator, she is also a mom and a mom of a special education child. Ms. Hope stated that the Board does understand.

Ms. Bell expressed how difficult this process has been. She credited Mr. Nolan with having a tough task and maintaining open communication.

ADJOURN

On motion of Ms. McGivney, seconded by Mr. Davidson, the meeting was adjourned, unanimously viva voce, at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Hope

Upcoming Board Meetings – Copper Hill School

June 7 – J. P. Case Middle School

June 21

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