

1 **OFFICIAL MINUTES**

2
3 of the **REGULAR MEETING** of the Greenwich Township Board of Education held
4 Monday, November 17, 2008 in the Nehaunsey Middle School library.

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6 The meeting was called to order by President Patrick Lani, Jr. at 7:00 p.m.

7
8 **Roll Call:**

- 9
10 Patrick Lani, Jr.
11 Frederick Reel
12 Louis Fabiani
13 Loraine LaPalomento
14 Frank Minniti
15 Michael Myers
16

17 Also present were Dr. Francine Marteski, Superintendent and Scott A. Campbell,
18 School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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20 As required under the guidelines of the Open Public Meeting Law, notice of this meeting
21 was sent to the **Gloucester County Times**, **Courier Post** and the **Township Clerk**. It
22 was also posted in the Greenwich Township School Buildings. (Optional: Videotaping
23 Regulations – “The proceedings of this meeting are being videotaped and anyone
24 wishing to discuss an individual child should so note.”)
25

26 **Absent:**

- 27
28 Robyn Glocker Hammond
29

30 Flag Salute

31
32 **1. PRESENTATION**

33
34 A presentation was made by Board President Patrick Lani, Jr. to representatives
35 from PSE & G in appreciation for furniture and equipment donated to our school
36 district over the past five years.
37

38 ****Frank Minniti** stated that on the original agenda, there was to be a
39 presentation by Ball, Buckley and Seher, LLP with an overview of the districts
40 fiscal status as of June 30, 2008. Representatives were not in attendance and
41 **Mr. Minniti** wanted to know why we were just now getting the audit this evening--
42 we didn't have a chance to review it. **Patrick Lani** replied that the auditors
43 were not here anyway so review it. **Mr. Minniti** stated that it was on the agenda
44 so he assumed the auditors would be here. **Mr. Lani** replied that he did not get
45 contacted so he didn't know the status. **Scott Campbell** added that he received

1 the documents late Friday afternoon and the auditor stated that they hurried to
2 get it to me because they were going to be here tonight to present it. **Mr. Lani**
3 stated that they never called to say they were not coming so everybody will now
4 have time to review and we will set up another time for them. **

5
6 **2. MINUTES**

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8 Motion: (Myers/Lani) to approve the minutes:

9
10 October 9, 2008 - Special Meeting
11 October 21, 2008 - Regular Meeting
12 October 21, 2008 - Executive Session

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14 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

15
16 ****Fred Reel** stated that the agenda is never dated and he had a letter submitted
17 on November 11, 2008 and it is not listed on the agenda under correspondence.
18 He wants to know what happened to his letter? **Scott Campbell** responded that
19 the date is on top of the agenda. **Frank Minniti** stated the letter **Mr. Reel** sent to
20 all Board of Education members does not normally get placed on the agenda.
21 **Mr. Campbell** asked **Mr. Reel** if everybody on the board got a copy and **Mr. Reel**
22 responded that they did. **Mr. Reel** feels if we write a letter, it should appear
23 under correspondence and he will read it when we get to that part of the
24 agenda.**

25 **3. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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27 Motion: (Minniti/LaPalomoto) to approve the following:

28
29 A. Administrative Reports

- 30
31 1. Enrollment Statistics, Fire Drills and Suspensions, as of October
32 31, 2008. (Attachment - EXHIBIT B1)
33
34 2. School Health Services Monthly Reports as of October 31, 2008.
35 (Attachment - EXHIBIT B2)
36
37 3. 2008-2009 Violence & Vandalism Report as of October 31, 2008.
38 (Attachment - EXHIBIT B3)
39
40 4. Monthly Report of Attendance Officer as of October 31, 2008.
41 (Attachment - EXHIBIT B4)

42
43 B. District Policies/Regulations

GRADE AND/OR GROUP	DESTINATION/TIME	DATES	ESTIMATED RELATED COST	ESTIMATED TRANSPORTATION COST	TOTAL
Grade 1	Greenwich Township Library 12:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.	3/3/09	\$-0-	Driver: \$87.00	\$87.00
Grade 2	Academy of Natural Sciences Philadelphia, PA 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	4/17/09	Tickets: \$568.00 3 Substitutes: \$225.00	Driver: \$290.00 Tolls: \$12.00 Lunch: \$16.00	\$1,153.50
Grade 1	Adventure Aquarium Camden, NJ 9:00 a.m.-2:15 p.m.	5/6/09	Tickets: \$685.00	Driver: \$348.00 Lunch: \$16.00	\$1,049.00

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Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: (Minniti/Fabiani) to approve the following:

D. Workshops

1. The approval for the following individuals to attend out-of-district workshops:

NAME	WORKSHOP TITLE/LOCATION/DATE	COST
Angela Addeo	Regional Training Sessions on Licensing Code Gloucester County College Sewell, NJ December 2, 2008 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	\$-0- Plus Mileage
Alisa Whitcraft	The Reading Workshop: Turn Your Students into Real Readers Drexel Hill, PA January 26, 2009 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	\$199.00 Plus Mileage

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6. BUSINESS & FINANCE

Motion: (Minniti/Myers) to approve the following:

A. Bills Lists

1. The bills as presented by the Board Secretary in the following amounts are ordered paid. (Attachment - EXHIBIT C1)

P26	\$290,066.69
P27	\$.60
P28	\$ 11,816.72

P29	\$288,993.09
P30	\$100,300.03
P31	\$ 1,372.93
P32	\$113,152.35
P33	\$ 48,634.09

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****Patrick Lani** asked why it says "pick-up truck" when we bought a "dump truck" and is that what they wanted? **Scott Campbell** asked who was "they"? **Mr. Lani** responded, "the maintenance department". **Mr. Campbell** replied that it was submitted last year during the budget process by the maintenance supervisor. **Mr. Lani** stated that they then submitted for a dump truck and wanted to see the paperwork that he requested from Dr. Marteski. **Mr. Campbell** let him see the purchase order and supporting documents. **Mr. Lani** added that if it is correct, we don't have a problem but that if it isn't correct, we have a problem. **Mr. Campbell** asked what the problem is? **Mr. Lani** asked, "did we order a dump truck"? **Mr. Campbell** answered, "yes". **Mr. Lani** stated that on the bills list, it says "pick-up truck", so which is it? **Mr. Campbell** responded that when it was typed up, it was wrong and what was budgeted for was what was purchased. In fact, we budgeted for a "Ford Super Duty F350" and got an "F450" for \$10,000.00 less than what we budgeted for. **Mr. Campbell** will send copies of all paperwork associated with the purchase home to each Board of Education member. **Frank Minniti** asked if we were under budget on this? **Mr. Campbell** responded that we were under budget by \$10,000.00. **Mr. Lani** asked **Mr. Minniti** if it was the correct truck? **Mr. Minniti** responded that it is what we budgeted for. **Mr. Lani** questioned if we bought the right truck? There is some question if we bought the right truck or not. **Mr. Campbell** asked where the question comes from? **Mr. Lani** responded, "me". **Mr. Campbell** asked, "just you"? **Mr. Lani** responded, "just me". **Mr. Campbell** stated again that he will send the information home and he does not know where the question arises from. **Mr. Lani** commented that he does not know what we are doing with a dump truck. **Mr. Campbell** asked what he was driving at? **Mr. Lani** said the truck is not suitable for our needs and we needed a pick-up truck. **Mr. Campbell** asked if he was an expert in that field? **Mr. Lani** responded that he used to sell cars and trucks. **Mr. Campbell** commented that this is what they asked for and this is what was budgeted and that at this point you are micro-managing. **Mr. Lani** feels that **Mr. Campbell** is not doing what the Board of Education members ask. **Mr. Campbell** responded that **Mr. Lani** was out of line and that he has had this bills list well in advance and that he could have e-mailed or called with questions. **Dr. Francine Marteski** states in every update that if you have any questions, to please contact either one of us. **Mr. Campbell** stated "You are grandstanding in a public meeting and I am offended by you." **Mr. Lani** stated that he asked **Dr. Marteski** for the information. **Mr. Campbell** added that **Mr. Lani** took a comment out of the suggestion box that was unsigned and that he

1 found it to be unbelievable. Someone could write anything they want to write
2 about Dr. Marteski or myself and for you to address it is unbelievable. **Loraine**
3 **LaPalomoto** again stated that the truck was about \$40,000.00 and under
4 budget.
5

6 **Mr. Lani** asked about the bill from Pars Environmental. **Mr. Campbell**
7 responded that it was from this summer's abatement project at Broad Street
8 School in which they were there for over a week. **Mr. Lani** then asked about a
9 bill from Garrison Architects for change in use/bathroom renovations. **Mr.**
10 **Campbell** responded that they never changed the original invoice title and as we
11 know the bathroom work was never done.**
12

13 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
14

15 Motion: (Minniti/Myers) to approve the following:
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- 17 2. The approval for the following check to be voided. (Attachment -
18 EXHIBIT C2)
19

Check#	Vendor	Amount
6814	Pepco Energy	\$83.44

20 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
21
22

23 Motion: (Minniti/Fabiani) to approve the following:
24

25 **B. Cafeteria Payments**
26

- 27 1. The approval for the following cafeteria payments for November
28 2008 as presented by the Board Secretary in the following amounts
29 are ordered paid.
30

CHECK#	DATE	PAYABLE TO	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
731	11/15/08	Deer Park Water	Water	\$35.31
732	11/15/08	NJ Department of Agriculture	Food	\$58.75
733	11/15/08	W.B. Mason	Supplies	\$68.16
734	11/15/08	Paul Vallandingham	Food	\$99.00
735	11/15/08	Jack & Jill Ice Cream	Food	\$111.48
736	11/15/08	Deluxe Italian Bakery	Food	\$206.34
737	11/15/08	Stroehmann	Food	\$501.85
738	11/15/08	City Supply	Food	\$1,116.92
739	11/15/08	Hy-Point	Milk	\$1,284.54
740	11/15/08	VOID	VOID	VOID

741	11/15/08	Sysco	Food	\$8,497.43
		Total November Pay out		\$12,017.13

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2 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3
4 Motion: (Fabiani/Minniti) to approve the following as one, C-F:

5
6 C. Student Activities Account

- 7
8 1. The approval of the Student Activities Account Monthly Bank
9 Reconciliation for the month of October 2008. (Attachment -
10 EXHIBIT D)

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12 D. Board Secretary's Report

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14 1. The acceptance of the Board Secretary's Report for the month of
15 October 2008. (Attachment - EXHIBIT E)
- 16
17 a. Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Greenwich
18 Township Board of Education certifies by a roll call vote that
19 as of October 31, 2008, after review of the Board Secretary's
20 Reports for October, 2008, and upon consultation with the
21 district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major
22 account or fund has been over expended in violation of
23 N.J.A.C.6A:23:23-2.11(b) and that sufficient funds are
24 available to meet the district's financial obligation for the
25 remainder of the fiscal year.

26
27 E. Treasurer's Report

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29 1. The approval of the Treasurer's Report in accordance with 18A:17-
30 36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of October 2008. The Treasurer's
31 Report and Secretary's Report are in agreement for the month of
32 October 2008. (Attachment - EXHIBIT F)

33
34 F. Transfer List

- 35
36 1. The ratification of transfers, authorized by the Superintendent, for
37 the month of October 2008, to give balances to new accounts and
38 to balance existing accounts. (Attachment - EXHIBIT G)

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40 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1 **7. USE OF FACILITIES**

2
3 Motion: (Minniti/Myers) to approve the following as one, A-C:

4
5 A. The retroactive approval for a CPR Certification Class (Bridge the Gap)
6 scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2008 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30
7 p.m. in the Nehaunsey Middle School Library.

8
9 B. The retroactive approval for Gibbstown Boy's Basketball to use the
10 Nehaunsey Middle School lobby on the following Tuesdays and
11 Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for basketball signups.

12
13 November 11, 2008 November 13, 2008
14 November 18, 2008 November 20, 2008
15 November 25, 2008

16
17 C. The retroactive approval for the Greenwich Township Education
18 Association to use the Art Room - Room #16 in the Nehaunsey Middle
19 School on Monday, November 17, 2008 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for a
20 GTEA meeting.

21
22 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

23
24 **8. OLD BUSINESS**

25
26 **Fred Reel** read his letter that he previously commented on. It is attached for
27 reference as Exhibit H. He also commented that his letter was written based off
28 of a driver's temporary leave of absence and that there was a motion made to
29 look into privatization of the bussing. **Mr. Reel** would like to make a motion to
30 table the issue of looking into privatization and move it into committee. **Frank**
31 **Minniti** seconded that motion. **Mr. Reel** would like to put on ice and rescind
32 having the Business Administrator look into privatization because after looking at
33 it closer, we have one of the best bussing services around. Right now, we
34 shouldn't make any plans to outsource and it would be helpful to know where the
35 county stands on this issue. **Loraine LaPalomente** feels we should get
36 someone from the outside to substitute or look for someone who is currently on
37 staff to substitute. **Mr. Minniti** stated that he read in the minutes that **Patrick**
38 **Lani** said that he wanted to look into privatization. **Michael Myers** feels that
39 maybe we should look into hiring a part-time bus driver who has other duties in
40 the district. He is not interested in privatizing in bussing or in other areas. **Mr.**
41 **Reel** asked if we can have maintenance staff drive? **Scott Campbell** responded
42 that they are represented and that is a negotiable item. **Mr. Reel** again stated
43 that he wants the motion from the previous meeting rescinded. **Louis Fabiani**
44 commented that we have problems getting substitutes and that last month, they
45 asked the Business Administrator to look into what privatizing would cost. He

1 feels we need to look into other avenues to save money and that if anyone was
2 offended, that he apologizes for the vote. **Mr. Reel** asked if **Mr. Campbell** had
3 started to look into it? **Mr. Campbell** responded, "no". **Mr. Lani** asked if the
4 Board still wants to look into it or drop it? **Mr. Reel** wants to drop it. Again, **Mr.**
5 **Minniti** seconded **Mr. Reel's** motion.
6

7 Roll Call Vote:
8

9 Michael Myers - Yes
10 Patrick Lani - Yes
11 Fred Reel - Yes
12 Louis Fabiani - Yes
13 Loraine LaPalomente - Yes
14 Frank Minniti - yes
15

16 **9. NEW BUSINESS**
17

18 **Fred Reel** asked if we were hiring a new superintendent? **Patrick Lani**
19 responded that we have six interviews to conduct and we may have others to
20 apply. He read an e-mail from Executive County Superintendent, Dr. Mark
21 Stanwood stating that maybe we should hold off on hiring a permanent
22 superintendent and possibly look into sharing services. **Mr. Lani** feels that we
23 may look into shared services and we may also look at filling the position with an
24 interim superintendent. **Loraine LaPalomente** asked why this may have been
25 recommended? **Mr. Lani** replied that we have high administrative costs. **Mr.**
26 **Minniti** asked **Mr. Campbell** where we are in our administrative costs? **Mr.**
27 **Campbell** responded that we are below the regional limit. **Mr. Reel** asked about
28 New Jersey School Boards Association assisting in the search and if we were
29 going to pay the \$6,500.00 fee? **Mr. Lani** responded that at this time, we would
30 not be using them.
31

32 **10. CORRESPONDENCE**
33

34 None at this time.
35

36 **11. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**
37

38 No reports at this time.
39

40 **12. PUBLIC - AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
41

42 This is the time when anyone from the public who wishes to speak to the Board
43 may do so. Please state your name, address and phone number. The Board will
44 hear your concerns. The Board may or may not take action this evening. You

1 will be notified either at this meeting, by letter or telephone of any action the
2 Board does take.

3
4 **Christine Franklin**, 624 Betty Rose Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ asked if the Board
5 consulted with the administration, (Dr. Marteski) on the vacant Nehaunsey Middle
6 School Principal position? **Mr. Lani** responded, "no".

7
8 **Bridget DiGiambattista**, 346 Kirkbride Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ asked if the
9 district is going to hire an interim or part-time superintendent? **Mr. Lani**
10 responded that an interim can be hired for up to two (2) years but a few of the
11 candidates have asked for a commitment.

12
13 **Cathy Tortella**, 414 Swedesboro Road, Gibbstown, NJ, asked to re-affirm that
14 we were not spending \$6,500.00 with the New Jersey School Board Association
15 on the Superintendent search. **Mr. Lani** responded that we were not paying
16 someone to conduct the search. **Mrs. Tortella** then commented that we have
17 one of the lowest tax rates in the county. **Scott Campbell** stated that we are
18 about the 3rd lowest and our increase was 1.85 last year and 7.5 cents the prior
19 year.

20
21 **Chuck Tortella**, 414 Swedesboro Road, Gibbstown, NJ asked the Board to be
22 careful before hiring an interim superintendent because the district where he
23 worked had one and the interim superintendent destroyed the district. **Mr. Lani**
24 asked who it was? **Mr. Tortella** said he wasn't naming names. **Mr. Tortella** then
25 asked why the auditors were not here to present the audit. **Mr. Lani** responded
26 that there must have been miscommunication and that he has not seen the audit.

27
28 **Diana Taormina**, 740 Duncan Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ asked about the grant
29 money for construction and if we would make the January 31, 2009 deadline?
30 **Mr. Lani** responded that it may not happen and right now with trying to hire a
31 superintendent and address the buildings is difficult. **Mrs. Taormina** asked if we
32 will have a committee formed to look at it? **Mr. Lani** said the Building and
33 Grounds Committee will look into it. **Louis Fabiani** added that we have to get
34 our facts straight before a decision is made. **Frank Minniti** feels the January 31,
35 2009 deadline date cannot be made and the architect had more urgency then we
36 do. **Mrs. Taormina** asked why the architects were even here. **Mr. Minniti**
37 responded that the Board of Education President asked them to be here.

38
39 **Nancy Dwyer**, 114 South Market Street, Gibbstown, NJ commented that she sat
40 on the original committee. She said it was a long process and the people will still
41 have to vote on it. **Mr. Lani** commented that the Board of Education could make
42 the decision on their own and the peoples' input could be eliminated and that he
43 feels we could meet the deadline. **Michael Myers** feels that the only way to use
44 the money is for repairs and he will not support a referendum unless he feels it
45 will pass.

1 **James Sorbello**, 26 North Poplar Street, Gibbstown, NJ asked how long it
2 would take the architect to draw up plans? **Mr. Lani** said it would take 20 days.
3 **Mr. Sorbello** does not feel this is enough time to make the proper decision. **Mr.**
4 **Lani** commented that to have a vote would cost around \$10,000.00, 30 days
5 notice would have to be given to the voters and that if the people want to keep
6 both schools open it is not a problem but it is his opinion that we should
7 consolidate.

8
9 **Christine Franklin** asked if Dr. Stanwood can come to a meeting? **Mr. Lani**
10 said right now he doesn't have any good dates to meet with us.

11
12 **Diana Taormina** asked how long it would take to pay back a bond? **Mr. Lani**
13 responded that we still are eligible for the 40% funding and we could pay it back
14 over any increment of years.

15
16 **James Sorbello** asked **Mr. Lani** if he had the figures for what it would cost to
17 consolidate? **Mr. Lani** responded, "no". **Mr. Lani** also stated that he realizes
18 that we have a heavy retirement population and they won't spend money on
19 schools. **Mr. Sorbello** feels that the cost of renovation should be weighed
20 against a new structure and that the Department of Education sometimes gives
21 more money for repairs than they would if you were to consolidate.

22
23 **Sharon Salvatore**, 122 Bacchus Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ reiterated the point that
24 she would not like to see an interim superintendent for more than six months.

25
26 **Ada Zubec**, 454 Washington Street, Gibbstown, NJ wanted to make sure that
27 the bus driver issue has been dropped and she also mentioned that it is costly to
28 get training for a CDL license. She feels we just need to get more substitutes.
29 **Louis Fabiani** responded that they did not have enough information at last
30 months' meeting.

31
32 **James Sorbello** commented that he agrees with **Mrs. Salvatore & Mr.**
33 **Tortella's** position on an interim superintendent. **Mr. Lani** responded that they
34 will look into it. **Mr. Sorbello** commented that this room is a horrible room to
35 have a Board meeting and we should look into a new location. **Mr. Lani** asked
36 **Mr. Sorbello** if he ever had this many people show up to a Board meeting when
37 he was on the Board? **Mr. Sorbello** asked if the Board was looking into
38 privatizing anything else? **Mr. Lani** replied that **Mr. Sorbello** was monopolizing
39 the conversation.

40
41 **Joann Parker**, Mellon Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ has a concern with hiring an
42 interim superintendent and this could be a long term disservice to the kids.

43
44 **Diana Taormina** asked how long is a superintendent's contract? **Mr. Lani**
45 responded that typically they are 3-5 years.

