

1 **OFFICIAL MINUTES**

2
3 of the **PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING** of the Greenwich Township Board of
4 Education held Thursday, March 29, 2007 in the Nehaunsey Middle School library.

5
6 The meeting was called to order by President Frank J. Minniti at 7:03 p.m.

7
8 **Roll Call:**

9
10 Frank J. Minniti
11 Robyn Glocker Hammond
12 Patrick Lani, Jr.
13 Michael Myers
14 James Sorbello
15 Susan Vernacchio

16
17 Also present were Dr. Francine Marteski, Superintendent and Scott A. Campbell,
18 School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

19
20 **Absent:**

21
22 Lawrence Hall

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

29
30 **Flag Salute**

31
32 **1. MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL BUDGET**

33
34 Motion: (Vernacchio/Sorbello) to open the Public Hearing portion of the
35 meeting to present the 2007-2008 Proposed Budget.

36
37 A. The 2007-2008 Budget Presentation was made by Scott Campbell,
38 Business Administrator. (Presentation attached)

39
40 B. Discussion open to public.
41

1 Lee Lucas, 361 Democrat Road, Gibbstown, NJ thanked the Board for
2 keeping the school tax rate low and wanted to know what the tuition
3 amount was for Paulsboro High School?
4

5 Scott A. Campbell, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
6 responded that regular education tuition is up 19% over last year to
7 \$12,352.00 a student. Special Education tuition varies because of the
8 different classifications and it is up overall just \$12,363.00 for Special
9 Education.
10

11 Mr. Lucas then asked how Paulsboro can raise their tuition without our
12 input?
13

14 Mr. Campbell responded that they have their costs and increases that
15 affect tuition and that the budget software determines the tuition rate. He
16 also indicated that the number of students going to Paulsboro is about the
17 same as last year and that we have been fortunate that over the last few
18 years we have received a significant tuition adjustment from Paulsboro
19 and that is based on average daily enrollment from three years ago.
20

21 Mr. Fred Reel, 148 Swedesboro Road, Gibbstown, NJ asked if any of the
22 \$15 million from the last referendum attempt were still available?
23

24 Frank J. Minniti responded that the amount was not that large. It was
25 more like \$6 million but the money is no longer available and if the
26 taxpayers wanted to approve a referendum in the future, they would pay
27 for it in full.
28

29 Lou Fabiani, 21 Oak Street, Gibbstown, NJ asked if the employee's paid
30 any portion of their medical benefits and was there any plans on having
31 them contribute and has that been discussed during negotiations?
32

33 Frank J. Minniti responded that the Board covers 100% of the employee's
34 benefits and the negotiating team has not broached the subject during
35 these negotiations.
36

37 Joseph Marcucci, 409 Jefferson Street, Gibbstown, NJ commented that
38 the the general public does not realize that nothing can be done to control
39 the increase in special education costs and the state and federal
40 governments need to get involved to help control costs.
41

1 Geraldine Pohlig, 126 South Home Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ stated the
2 public wants to know why the elections are being held from 4:00 pm-9:00
3 pm? These times are an inconvenience to all senior citizens.
4

5 Frank J. Minniti responded that the time change was made for safety
6 reasons. We had buses and civilians driving on the premises and on two
7 occasions, students were almost hit. The minimum time for the election is
8 four hours. Our polling location is open for five hours and we feel that
9 it is sufficient.

10 No other public comment.

11
12
13 **2. MOTION TO CLOSE HEARING**

14 Motion: (Glocker Hammond/Vernacchio) to close the public hearing.

15 Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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19 **3. MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL BUDGET**

20 Motion: (Sorbello/Glocker Hammond) to approve the following resolution:

21 A. The approval of the following resolution:

22
23 **BE IT RESOLVED** to approve a school district budget for the FY
24 2007-2008 for submission to the voters and the Gloucester County
25 Superintendent of Schools as follows:
26
27

28
29

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
30 Total General Fund	\$11,123,203.00	\$8,685,673.00
31 Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 329,312.00	N/A
32 Totals	\$11,452,515.00	\$8,685,673.00

33
34

35 **Roll Call Vote**

36
37 Frank Minniti - Yes
38 Robyn Glocker Hammond - Yes
39 Patrick Lani, Jr. - No
40 Michael Myers - No
41 James Sorbello - Yes
42 Susan Vernacchio - Yes
43

1 **4. MINUTES**

2
3 Motion: (Myers/Sorbello) to approve the minutes:

4
5 February 20, 2007 - Regular Meeting

6
7 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

8
9 **5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

10
11 Motion: (Glocker Hammond/Vernacchio) to approve the following:

12
13 A. Administrative Reports

- 14
15 1. Enrollment Statistics, Fire Drills and Suspensions, as of February
16 28, 2007. (Attachment - EXHIBIT B1)
17
18 2. School Health Services Monthly Reports as of February 28, 2007.
19 (Attachment - EXHIBIT B2)
20
21 3. 2006-2007 Violence & Vandalism Report as of February 28, 2007.
22 (Attachment - EXHIBIT B3)
23
24 4. Monthly Report of Attendance Officer as of February 28, 2007.
25 (Attachment - EXHIBIT B4)
26

27 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

28
29 **6. PERSONNEL**

30
31 Motion: (Sorbello/Myers) to approve the following as one, A-D:

- 32
33 A. The approval for a medical leave of absence for Suzanne Gibson,
34 Principal, effective April 16, 2007 (return date to be determined) as per the
35 attached. (Attachment - EXHIBIT C)
36
37 B. The retroactive approval to amend the salary of Jaime Mungo to
38 \$45,565.00 (Step 5, MA) from \$44,965.00 (Step 5, BA +30) prorated for
39 the 2006-2007 school year effective December 21, 2006.
40
41 C. The approval for the resignation of Mary MacMichael, Secretary to the
42 Superintendent, effective April 6, 2007 as per the attached. (Attachment -
43 EXHIBIT I)

- 1 D. The approval for payment of tuition reimbursement for Kathy Seacrist for
 2 two courses at Rowan University - Summer, 2007 ("Education &
 3 Psychology of Exceptional Learners" and "Teaching Strategies for
 4
 5 Managing Behavior of Students with Disabilities: A Curriculum Approach")
 6 for an amount not to exceed the current New Jersey state college tuition
 7 rate pending completion/verification of required documentation as per
 8 Article XII, Section I, of the GTEA/Board Agreement.
 9

10 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

11
 12 **7. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

13
 14 Motion: (Glocker Hammond/Sorbello) to approve the following as one, A-F:

15
 16 A. Field Trips

- 17
 18 1. The retroactive approval of Request for Educational Trip/
 19 Transportation for the following:
 20
 21

GRADE AND/OR GROUP	DESTINATION/TIME	DATE	ESTIMATED RELATED COST	ESTIMATED TRANSPORTATION COST	TOTAL
Grade 8	Gloucester County Education Office Sewell, NJ 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	03/22/07	\$-0-	Driver: \$52.00	\$52.00

- 22
 23 2. The approval of Request for Educational Trip/Transportation for the
 24 following:
 25
 26

GRADE AND/OR GROUP	DESTINATION/TIME	DATE	ESTIMATED RELATED COST	ESTIMATED TRANSPORTATION COST	TOTAL
Pre-K	Cape May Zoo Cape May, NJ 9:15 am-2:45 pm	6/01/07	\$25.00 Donation	Driver: \$143.00 Lunch: \$ 8.00 Bus Aide: \$ 51.43	\$227.43
S.A.D.D.	Riversharks Stadium Camden, NJ 10:00 am-2:00 pm	5/23/07	\$448.00 Covered by Student Activity Fund	Driver: \$104.00 Lunch: \$ 8.00	\$112.00

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B. Workshops

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

NAME	WORKSHOP TITLE/LOCATION/DATE	COST
Janet Shivers	Powerful Physical Education Strategies For Ensuring Activity/Fitness for All Students Cherry Hill, NJ 3/30/07	\$185.00 Plus Substitute Plus Mileage
Cathy Tortella	Legal Issues in School Nursing Sewell, NJ 4/26/07 (5:30 pm-9:00 pm)	\$55.00 Plus mileage
Elizabeth Button Maureen Jenzano	NJSHA Assessment/Intervention in Autism Spectrum Disorders Atlantic City, NJ 4/27/07	\$189.00 each Plus mileage

C. Professional Development Plan

1. The approval for the acceptance of the Greenwich Township School District's Professional Development Plan for the 2007-2008 school year (copy available in Superintendent's Office for your review).

D. Out-Of-District Placement

1. The retroactive approval of the out-of-district placement for P.T. at Devereux for the 2006-2007 school year, effective March 5, 2007 at a prorated annual rate of \$39,989.00 (\$187.74 per day tuition and \$245.00 per day transportation).

E. Practicum Students/Student Teachers

1. The retroactive approval for the following Fairleigh Dickinson University Field Experience student for placement during the spring semester 2007 at Nehauseney Middle School.

<u>Student:</u> John Petroski	<u>Cooperating Teacher:</u> Elizabeth Kaminski (Grade 7)
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2. The approval for the following Rutgers University Student Teacher for placement during the fall semester 2007 at Broad Street School from September 19, 2007 through December 14, 2007.

<u>Student:</u> Ashley Burlingame	<u>Cooperating Teacher:</u> Megan Sizemore (Grade K)
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1 F. Summer Programs

- 2
3 1. The approval of the following Summer Programs to be held June
4 25, 2007 through July 31, 2007 (four-day week, Monday through
5 Thursday, 20 day total).
6
7 a. Multiply Disabled - 2007 Extended School Year Program
8 b. 2007 Summer FastWord Program
9

10 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

11
12 **8. BUSINESS & FINANCE**

13
14 Motion: (Sorbello/Glocker Hammond) to approve the following:
15

16 A. Bills Lists

17
18 1. Resolution

- 19
20 a. The approval of the Travel and Related Expense
21 Reimbursement resolution as follows:
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the Greenwich Township Board of Education
24 recognizes school staff and board members will incur travel expenses
25 related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for
26 travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient
27 operation of the school district; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires board
30 members to receive prior approval of these expenses by a majority of the
31 full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior
32 approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a
33 majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and
34

35 **WHEREAS**, a Board of Education may establish, for regular
36 district business travel only as described in NJOMB Circular Letter 06-02,
37 including amendments or revisions thereto, a threshold amount below
38 which Board approval is not required; and
39

40 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education establishes, for regular
41 district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$1,000.00
42 per staff/board member where prior Board approval shall not be required

1 unless this annual threshold for a staff/board member is exceeded in a
2 given school year (July 1 through June 30); and
3

4 **WHEREAS**, travel and related expenses not in compliance
5 with N.J.A.C.6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education
6 to be necessary and unavoidable are excluded from the requirements of
7 N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq.; and
8

9 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of
10 Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1
11 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as per noted on the attached
12 Board of Education Approval of Travel and Related Expense
13 Reimbursement Form; and
14

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of Education
16 approves the travel and related expense reimbursements as listed on the
17 attached Board of Education Approval of Travel and Related Expense
18 Reimbursement Form.
19

20 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

21
22 Motion: (Glocker Hammond/Myers) to approve the following:

- 23
24 2. The bills as presented by the Board Secretary in the following
25 amounts be ordered paid: (Attachment - EXIBIT D)
26

P52	\$6,125.89
P53	\$90,476.81
P54	\$557,950.61
P55	\$37,206.60
P56	\$182,732.34
P57	\$282,629.80
P58	\$196,967.20

27
28 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

29
30 Motion: (Myers/Glocker Hammond) to approve the following as one, B-E:

31
32 **B. Student Activities Account**

- 33
34 1. The approval of the Student Activities Account Monthly Bank
35 Reconciliation for the month of February 2007. (Attachment -
36 EXHIBIT E)

1 C. Board Secretary's Report

- 2
3 1. The acceptance of the Board Secretary's Report for the month of
4 February, 2007. (Attachment - EXHIBIT F)

5
6 Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Greenwich Township
7 Board of Education certifies by a roll call vote that as of February
8 28, 2007, after review of the Board Secretary's Reports for
9 February, 2007, and upon consultation with the district officials, to
10 the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over
11 expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23:23-2.11(b) and that
12 sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial
13 obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year.

14
15 D. Treasurer's Report

- 16
17 1. The approval of the Treasurer's Report in accordance with 18A:17-
18 36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of February 2007. The Treasurer's
19 Report and Secretary's Report are in agreement for the month of
20 February 2007. (Attachment - EXHIBIT G)

21
22 E. Transfer List

- 23
24 1. The ratifications of transfers, authorized by the Superintendent, for
25 the month of February, 2007, to give balances to new accounts and
26 to balance existing accounts. (Attachment - EXHIBIT H)

27
28 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

29
30 Motion: (Vernacchio/Sorbello) to approve the following:

- 31
32 F. The retroactive approval for the submittal of the Greenwich Township
33 School District No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Grant Application for the
34 fiscal year 2007 electronically submitted on October 30, 2006 as listed
35 below:
36

PROGRAM NAME	REPORT NUMBER	FY 2007 ALLOCATION AMOUNT
NCLB Consolidated	NCLBCV-151830	
Title I, Part A Basic		\$53,760.00
Title II, Part A		\$21,252.00
Title II, Part D		\$238.00
Title IV		\$2,015.00
Title V		\$832.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION		\$78,097.00

1 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
2

3 **9. USE OF FACILITIES**
4

5 Motion: (Glocker Hammond/Myers) to approve the following as one, A-C:
6

7 A. The retroactive approval for Gibbstown Girls Softball to use the Broad
8 Street School gymnasium for softball tryouts on March 3, 2007 from 9:00
9 am to 12:00 pm.

10
11 B. The retroactive approval for Gibbstown Girls Softball to use the Broad
12 Street School gymnasium for softball practice on March 13, 15, 20, 22, 27
13 and 29, 2007 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

14
15 C. The approval for Gibbstown Boys Basketball to use the Nehaunsey Middle
16 School gymnasium for a pizza party on April 13, 2007 from 6:00 pm to
17 8:00 pm.

18
19 **Roll Call Vote:**
20

21 Frank Minniti - Yes to all

22 Robyn Glocker Hammond - Yes to all

23 Patrick Lani, Jr. - Yes to all

24 Michael Myers - Yes to all

25 James Sorbello - Yes to all

26 Susan Vernacchio - Abstained on Item A & B, Yes to Item C.
27

28 **10. OLD BUSINESS**
29

30 Patrick Lani wants to know why we continually have to feed people when we
31 have meetings and would like to have this practice reviewed by the Board.
32

33 **11. NEW BUSINESS**
34

35 None at this time.
36

37 **12. COORESPONDENCE**
38

39 The Board received a thank you note from the family of Toni Mitana who recently
40 passed away.
41
42
43

1 **13. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS**

2
3 Robyn Glocker Hammond reported that the Negotiations Committee is
4 progressing and there are two more meetings scheduled. Susan Vernacchio
5 reported that the Public Relations Committee is getting good feedback on doing
6 the *Gazette* and *In The Groove* internally. The Committee will report back to the
7 Board with a recommendation.
8

9 **14. PUBLIC - AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

10
11 This is the time when anyone from the public who wishes to speak to the Board
12 may do so. Please state your name, address and phone number. The Board will
13 hear your concerns. The Board may or may not take action this evening. You
14 will be notified either at this meeting by letter or telephone of any action the
15 Board does take.
16

17 Janine Harris, 751 Duncan Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ commented that she is an
18 Instructional Aide and that there are several rooms with heating issues and
19 bathrooms that do not have hot water.
20

21 Frank J. Minniti thanked her for her comment and assured her that her issues
22 would be noted and addressed.
23

24 Bridgette DiGiambattista, 346 Kirkbride Drive, Gibbstown, NJ asked Patrick Lani
25 why he voted "no" to the 2007-2008 Budget?
26

27 Mr. Lani responded that he did not agree with the moving of the Library, Art
28 Room and Music Room. Even though capital outlay is a small portion of the
29 budget, Mr. Lani does not agree with the spending and feels that the money
30 should be put toward ADA compliancy of the bathrooms at Broad Street School
31 or HVAC at Broad Street School. He feels we do not spend enough money at
32 Broad Street and the window replacement at Nehaunsey Middle School can be
33 put off until later.
34

35 Mrs. DiGiambattista commented that the conditions at Broad Street are
36 deplorable and they can't be fixed in a budget cycle and we have been working
37 with what we have for too long.
38

39 Christine Franklin, 624 Betty Rose Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ asked if the budget
40 was defeated, would that mean that the roof replacement at Broad Street would
41 not get done?
42

1 Scott A. Campbell responded that the roof project was budgeted in the 2006-
2 2007 budget and would not be affected.

3
4 Mrs. Franklin then asked Mr. Myers if they would be telling people to vote "no"
5 since they placed "no" votes in support of the budget?
6

7 Michael Myers said he voted "no" for the same reasons as Mr. Lani and that as a
8 board we sometimes will not collectively agree and that there were too many
9 other building issues that should be addressed first.

10
11 Mrs. DiGiambattista commented that with the leaky roofs, she is concerned that
12 mold and mildew are getting into the walls and possibly causing health problems
13 and if the referendum was passed, we would not be sitting here talking about
14 this.

15
16 Mr. Lani responded that the township will not go for spending \$25 million on
17 any project and we should be taking care of Broad Street because Nehaunsey
18 Middle School is in pretty good shape.

19
20 Robyn Glocker Hammond feels that the budget is sound and that the Buildings
21 and Grounds Committee is addressing the current conditions of the buildings in
22 an equitable fashion. The windows at Nehaunsey Middle School are the original
23 windows and most of the windows at Broad Street are about 16 years old and
24 this was one of the projects that needed to be addressed.

25
26 James Sorbello added that it would take millions of dollars to address the issues
27 at Broad Street School. It comes down to what the taxpayers will let us do. The
28 bathroom situation at Broad Street needs to be addressed and make them more
29 than handicapped accessible. We also have to address electrical capabilities for
30 Broad Street before we can explore putting elevators in. Addressing the issue of
31 windows--it is a project that we explored and feel it is the correct direction to go
32 in along with roof replacements. Mr. Sorbello also commented that all of the
33 projects Mr. Lani is talking about will have to be packed into a referendum.

34
35 Susan Vernacchio supports the budget. She puts faith in the Buildings and
36 Grounds Committee who worked with the architect. This district has to move
37 forward for the students sake.

38
39 Frank J. Minniti added that this is a good budget and most of our costs are re-
40 curring. Our costs per pupil are high primarily because we run two schools.
41 Enrollment is flat and we feel that children will be affected directly and indirectly.
42 Because the referendum failed, we now have to ask for money and the problems
43 are not being resolved fast enough.

1
2 Joseph Marcucci, 409 Jefferson Street, Gibbstown, NJ respects the opinion of
3 the Board of Education members who voted "no" but he feels this is a good
4 budget.

5
6 Lee Lucas feels that our instructional costs are too high and it makes our per
7 pupil costs high. He does not agree that operating two buildings is the cause.

8
9 **15. CLOSED SESSION**

10 Pursuant to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-
11 6, et seq., which provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may
12 be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution.

13
14 The Board of Education for Greenwich Township, assembled in public session on
15 March 29, 2007 hereby resolves that an Executive Session closed to the public
16 shall be held on March 29, 2007, at 8:42 p.m. in the Nehaunsey Middle School
17 library, Room 48, located at 415 Swedesboro Road, Gibbstown, New Jersey, for
18 discussion of certain matters which relate to items authorized by Open Public
19 Meetings Act, (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b) to be discussed in closed session.

20
21
22 1. *Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship*

23
24 It is anticipated that such matter may be disclosed to the public upon the
25 determination of the Board that applicable exception no longer applies and the
26 public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

27
28 Motion: (Glocker Hammond/Sorbello) to enter into closed session at 8:42 p.m. to
29 discuss the following:

30
31 *Personnel*

32
33 Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

34
35 Returned from closed session at 9:04 p.m.

36
37 **16. PERSONNEL**

38
39 Motion: (Sorbello/Myers) to approve the following:

- 40
41 A. The approval to appoint Alisa Whitcraft, Curriculum Coordinator, as
42 Interim Principal at Nehaunsey Middle School during Suzanne Gibson's
43 leave of absence. Mrs. Whitcraft will assume all of the responsibilities of

1 Principal with assistance from other key administrators. No additional
2 compensation will be paid at this time for this work.

3
4 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

5
6 Motion: (Sorbello/Vernacchio) to approve the following:

7
8 B. The approval of the 2007-2008 contract for Participation in Cooperative
9 Transportation between the Gloucester County Special Services School
10 District (GCSSSD) and the Greenwich Township Board of Education. A
11 7% administrative fee will be charged by GCSSSD.

12
13 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

14
15 **17. ADJOURNMENT**

16
17 Motion: (Myers/Sorbello) to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

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19 Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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21 Respectfully submitted,

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Scott A. Campbell, Board Secretary
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30