

OFFICIAL MINUTES

of the **REGULAR MEETING** of the Greenwich Township Board of Education held Tuesday, November 20, 2001 in the Nehaunsey Middle School Room 18.

The meeting was called to order by President Joseph Marcucci at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

Joseph Marcucci
Robyn Glocker-Hammond
Marie Downes
Susan Filiaggi
Larry Hall
Frank Minniti

Also present were Stephen C. Combs, Superintendent, and Scott A. Campbell, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Absent:

Celia Sorbello

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

Flag Salute

1. PRESENTATION

- A. Joseph Ognibene - Senior Member Services Representation from New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group (NJSBAIG) presented the Board with an award recognizing the district's safety program during the 2000-2001 school year.
- B. Nick L. Petroni - Petroni & Associates presented an overview of the Greenwich Township Board of Education's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001. Also, the Auditor's Management Report on Administrative Findings, Financial, Compliance and Performance for the year ending June 30, 2001.

2. MINUTES

Motion: (Minniti/Glocker-Hammond) to approve the following minutes:

October 9, 2001	Workshop Meeting
October 9, 2001	Caucus #1
October 9, 2001	Caucus #2
October 16, 2001	Regular Meeting
October 16, 2001	Caucus

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3. FINANCE

Motion: (Hall/Glocker-Hammond) to approve the following:

- A. The bills as presented by the Board Secretary in the total amounts of \$158,184.61, \$61,429.77, \$96,398.02, \$200,880.22 and \$199,371.30 be ordered paid. (Attachment - EXHIBIT A)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: (Minniti/Glocker-Hammond) to approve the following:

- B. The Student Activities Report for the month of September 2001. (Attachment - EXHIBIT B)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: (Downes/Filiaggi) to approve the following:

- C. The Board Secretary's Report for the month of August 2001. (Attachment - EXHIBIT C)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

- D. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e)*, that the Greenwich Township Board of Education certifies by a roll call vote that as of August 31, 2001, after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report for the month of August (Appropriations Section) and upon consultation with the district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: (Glocker-Hammond/Minniti) to approve the following:

- E. The Treasurer of School Monies Report for the month of August 2001.
(Attachment - EXHIBIT D)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

- F. The ratification of transfers, authorized by the Superintendent, for the month of August, 2001, to give balances to new accounts and to balance existing accounts. (Attachment - EXHIBIT E)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

- G. The Board Secretary's Report for the month of September 2001.
(Attachment - EXHIBIT F)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

- H. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e)*, that the Greenwich Township Board of Education certifies by a roll call vote that as of September 30, 2001, after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report for the month of September (Appropriations Section) and upon consultation with the district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6.20-2.13(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: (Downes/Glocker-Hammond) to approve the following:

- I. The Treasurer of School Monies Report for the month of September 2001.
(Attachment - EXHIBIT G)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

- J. The ratification of transfers, authorized by the Superintendent, for the month of September 2001, to give balances to new accounts and to balance existing accounts. (Attachment - EXHIBIT H)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: (Glocker-Hammond/Hall) to approve the following:

- K. The Greenwich Township Board of Education Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

- L. The Auditor's Management Report on Administrative Findings, Financial, Compliance and Performance for the year ending June 30, 2001. Further that the Business Administrator implement each of the recommendations as read, and distributed to the public at the November 20, 2001 Regular Meeting per the Corrective Action Plan provided by the Board Secretary and on file with the Business Administrator, to be submitted to the County Superintendent of Schools within thirty (30) days of this meeting.

(Attachment - EXHIBIT I) Audit Synopsis

(Attachment - EXHIBIT J) Corrective Action Plan

AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

- 1) Receipts and disbursements for the payroll agency account be properly entered into the Agency Account Ledger.
- 2) The Payroll Agency cash summary be reconciled to the bank account balance on a monthly basis.
- 3) Approved contracts be maintained for all employees.
- 4) Salaries for each payroll be reviewed to determine that all salaries are being charged and that the account numbers are valid.

Board Secretary's Records

- 5) Approved budgetary line accounts should not be over expended.
- 6) The general fixed assets account group has been established in the general ledger, but it has not been updated (at least monthly) for additions and disposals.
- 7) "Old" Grantor balances should be spent, returned or disposed of in accordance with the terms of the grant agreement.

Application for State School Aid

- 8) Only students placed in a handicapped facility by the school district as of October 13, 2000, be included in the A.S.S.A. report.

Transportation

- 9) Only resident students on roll as of October 13, 2000, be included in the DRTRS report.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

4. USE OF FACILITIES

Motion: (Downes/Glocker-Hammond) to approve the following as a group, 1-4:

1. The retroactive approval for use of the Broad Street School gymnasium on Friday, November 2, 2001, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. by the Greenwich Township P.T.A. for the purpose of the candle fund raiser delivery.
2. The use of the Broad Street School gymnasium on Friday, December 14, 2001, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., by the Greenwich Township PTA for the purpose of the candy fund raiser delivery.
3. The use of the Nehaunsey Middle School Teachers' Lounge on Tuesday, November 13, 2001, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. by the Gibbstown Girls Basketball for the purpose of a coaches meeting.
4. The use of the Nehaunsey Middle School gymnasium on Tuesday, March 19, 2002, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. by the Gibbstown Girls Basketball for the purpose of an end-of-season pizza party.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

5. RESOLUTION

Motion: (Minniti/Glocker-Hammond) to approve the following:

1. The attached Settlement Agreement of the Unfair Labor Practice between the Greenwich Township Board of Education and the Greenwich Township Education Association. Also, recommend approval for the Board President and the Board Secretary to execute the agreement. (Attachment-EXHIBIT K)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

6. CONTRACTS

Motion: (Glocker-Hammond/Hall) to approve the following:

1. The Agreement between the Greenwich Township Board of Education and the Greenwich Township Administrators Association for the time period beginning July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2004.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Field Trips

Motion: (Minniti/Glocker-Hammond) to approve the following:

1. The field trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art on March 8, 2002 for the Alpha Art students (grandes 6-8).

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: (Downes/Hall) to retroactively approve the following:

2. A field trip for eighth grade students to attend Paulsboro High School's Homecoming Pep Rally held on Friday, November 2, 2001.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

B. Personnel

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

1. The acceptance of the resignation of Joseph Cannavo, Spanish Teacher. Mr. Cannavo's resignation is effective December 15, 2001.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: (Filiaggi/Glocker-Hammond) to approve the following:

2. The following individual to serve as a Substitute Teacher for the remainder of the 2001-2002 school year. This approval is required by the County Office for a re-issuance of a Substitute Certificate.

Atkinson, Tara

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

3. The following individual as a Substitute Teacher for the remainder of the 2001-2002 school year (pending completion of all required documentation).

Robostello, Kimberly M.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: (Hall/Glocker-Hammond) to approve the following:

4. The following individual as a Substitute Bus Aide for the remainder of the 2001-2002 school year. All documentation has been completed because individual is an approved Cafeteria/Playground Aide.

Zirbser, Ann M.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

5. The following individual as a Substitute Secretary, Substitute Kitchen Worker and Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Aide for the remainder of the 2001-2002 school year.

Gray, Denise P.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

8. PUBLIC - AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

Frank J. Minniti, Board of Education member, complimented the staff on the Veteran's Day Program that was presented at both schools.

Joe Duca, 219 Cucinnota Drive, Gibbstown, NJ, read a statement regarding his concerns with initiating the Italian language into the districts curriculum. He realizes it is tough to implement new programs into the district. He has spoken to parents about implementing Italian into the system and he has gotten positive reactions and feedback from parents and kids. He realizes that the Board has worked hard to get Spanish into the curriculum and he just wants Italian to be considered. The grant for Italian stated that they would fund \$18,000 for one day a week and \$30,000 for two days a week and he feels the resources were there for placing Italian into the curriculum. Mr. Duca feels that the opinion within the community is important and should be considered. He asked Mr. Marcucci if he was against implementing Italian into the curriculum. Mr. Marcucci responded that he was not against the implementing Italian. Mr. Duca then asked each individual board member if they were opposed to implementing Italian. Each member in attendance, when asked by Mr. Duca, said they were not against implementing Italian. He closed his comments by saying that it would not be hard to provide signatures of support for his position and would just like the board to consider the statements he has made.

Toni Mitana, 34 S. Poplar St., Gibbstown, NJ, stated that we should have the option of either Spanish or Italian. She feels her grandchildren should be afforded the opportunity to learn about their heritage.

Frank Boultinghouse, 228 Marshall Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ, stated that he was surprised that all board members said they were not against teaching Italian in the district. Joe Marcucci responded by saying that the board never said they were against the program. Mr. Boultinghouse wanted to know if the board was going to include Italian into next years budget. Joe Marcucci stated that he will be informed when the budget is presented to the public. At this point, Mr. Boultinghouse presented the Board with petitions representing 266 names in support of the Italian program and asked what more the Board wanted the people to do to make this happen next year. He feels the effort has been made to prove there is a desire for this in the community and the board should listen.

Frank Minniti responded by saying that this could not be implemented this year and that the Board will be looking into it during the budget development process. Right now, the Board cannot give you a definite answer whether it will or will not be included in the budget.

Mr. Boultinghouse then asked why Spanish was chosen as a language.

Joe Marcucci answered that the language was chosen for the betterment of the children and also because that it is the second most spoken language in this country. He then asked Mr. Boultinghouse if he was requesting that we get rid of Spanish.

Mr. Boultinghouse claimed that he never said that.

Anthony Rastelli, 54 Memorial Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ, claims that no one ever said to do away with Spanish but that they would like the Board to survey the community to see if there is an interest in Italian.

Frank Minniti responded that would not be a problem and that he was not against a survey. He also added that the survey should have structure and proper intent.

Mr. Rastelli then asked Sue Filiaggi if she has a problem with conducting a survey.

Sue Filiaggi answered that she did not have a problem with conducting a survey but she did want people to realize that there are so many steps that need to be taken before a program is implemented and that people may not be aware of this.

Mr. Rastelli then asked the remaining board members in attendance if they were against a survey.

Larry Hall, Marie Downes, and Robyn Glocker-Hammond all stated that they were not against the survey. Mrs. Hammond does not want to limit the survey to certain languages and that people should be given choices.

Dean Duca, 220 Cucinnota Drive, Gibbstown, NJ, feels that implementing Italian would be an asset to the community and would only benefit the community.

Joe Ficara, 324 Croce Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ, has read a copy of the proposed schedule of the implementation of Italian in the curriculum as developed by the Superintendent. This also includes the cost associated with the program.

Joe Marcucci responded by saying that he has a memo from the principal that

states that we could not implement Italian into the curriculum without effecting the core curriculum.

Christina Morris, 239 Carson Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ, stated that she was upset to learn that Mr. Cannavo has resigned and does not feel that Spanish is of any use to the children and that it does not represent the community. She feel the school system should reflect the community and that they should have a choice. She also feel that the Board is resisting placing Italian into the curriculum.

Andy DiNardo, 120 Watkins Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ, stated that depending on what part of the country you are in, you have to consider demographics when choosing a language.

Kelly Ruggeri, 765 Allen Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ, added that she also supports the implementation of Italian into the curriculum.

Joe Marcucci stated that it has been made quite clear that you want Italian added into the curriculum. If you want this program, we will need your support and help and will make every attempt to look into implementing this program.

Frank Boultinghouse added that it is major cost operating two buildings and if we are willing to still operate two buildings then he feels the board can find the money to implement the program.

Joe Cannavo, Spanish Teacher in the district, stated that he was leaving the district because he cannot be a part of this cultural genocide.

Joseph Marcucci told Mr. Cannavo that you have your prerogative.

9. CLOSED SESSION

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

The Board of Education for Greenwich Township, assembled in public session on *November 20, 2001*, hereby resolves that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be held on *November 20, 2001*, at 8:12 in the Nehaunsey Middle School located at 415 Swedesboro Road, Gibbstown, New Jersey, for discussion of certain matters which relate to items authorized by *Open Public Meetings Act, (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b)* to be discussed in closed session.

1. Matters Involving Individual Privacy
2. Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship

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

Motion: (Minniti/Glocker-Hammond) to enter into closed session at 8:12 p.m. to discuss the following:

A. Personnel

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Returned from closed session at 8:51 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: (Glocker-Hammond/Filiaggi) to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Campbell, Business Administrator