

OFFICIAL MINUTES

of the **REGULAR MEETING** of the Greenwich Township Board of Education held **Monday, April 11, 2011** in the Nehaunsey Middle School library.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Loraine LaPalomato at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Loraine LaPalomato
Louis Fabiani
Roseanne Lombardo
Lisa Morina
Jason Murschell
Susan Vernacchio

Also present were Mr. Vincent Tarantino, Interim Superintendent.

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.”)

Absent:

James Worrell

FLAG SALUTE

1. MINUTES

Motion: (Fabiani/Lombardo) to approve the minutes:

March 28, 2011 - Regular Meeting
March 28, 2011 - Executive Session #1
March 28, 2011 - Executive Session #2

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

A. Administrative Reports

1. Enrollment Statistics, Fire Drills and Suspensions, as of March 31, 2011. (Attachment – EXHIBIT B1)
2. School Health Services Monthly Reports as of March 31, 2011. (Attachment – EXHIBIT B2)
3. 2010-2011 Violence & Vandalism Report as of March 31, 2011. (Attachment – EXHIBIT B3)
4. Monthly Report of Attendance Officer as of March 31, 2011. (Attachment – EXHIBIT B4)
5. GAP-CAP Meeting on April 7, 2011, recognition of three (3) fifth grade students, Courtney Cella, Mercedes Lackey and Canning for participation in the 5th Annual Chemistry and Contest.
6. Recognition of students who made the Principal's List for the third marking period from Broad Street School and Nehaunsey School.
7. Presentation of the NJQSAC.

Jaime
Poster

Middle

B. Affirmative Action Team

1. The *retroactive* approval for the appointment of Daniel Giorgianni, School Counselor, and Katie Eckert, School Psychologist, as members of the Affirmative Action Team for the 2010-2011 year. (Alisa Whitcraft was approved as the district's Action Officer for the 2010-2011 school year at the Reorganization Meeting.) This team was a NJQSAC.

school
Affirmative
April 28, 2010
recommendation by the

C. NJQSAC

1. The approval of the submission of the Greenwich Township School District's short term NJQSAC District Improvement Plan. (Attachment – EXHIBIT C)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

Mr. Jason Murschell, Chairperson
Ms. Loraine LaPalomento
Mr. James Worrell

Motion: (Vernacchio/Fabiani) to approve the following as one, A & B:

A. The approval for the following Nehaussey Middle School staff to serve on the NJHS Selection Committee (the Committee will serve for two hours at an hourly rate of \$30.00 per hour):

Lori Chiavoroli	Nicole McGann
Sharon Gomez-Salvatore	Stephania Tomaszewski

B. The approval for the acceptance of the resignation/retirement of Susan Zimmerman, Teacher at Broad Street School, effective June 30, 2011. (Attachment – EXHIBIT C1)

Jason Murschell read the retirement letter sent to the Board of Education from Susan Zimmerman.

POLICY/REGULATIONS

Mrs. Susan Vernacchio, Chairperson
Mrs. Lisa Morina
Mr. James Worrell

Motion: (Morina/Lombardo) to approve the following:

A. **District Policies/Regulations**

1. The approval of the following list of new and/or revised district by laws, policies and regulations on **first** reading:

POLICY/REGULATION	TITLE
Bylaw 0141.1	Board Member and Term – Sending District (<i>Revised</i>)
Bylaw 0155	Board Committees (<i>Revised</i>)
Policy 1230	Superintendent's Duties (<i>Revised</i>)
Policy 1522	School-Level Planning (<i>Revised</i>)
Policy 2132	School District Goals and Objectives (<i>Revised</i>)

Policy/Regulation 2414	Programs and Services for Pupils in High Poverty and in High Need School Districts (<i>Revised</i>)
Policy/Regulation 2440	Summer Session (<i>Revised</i>)
Policy 3144	Certification of Tenure Charges (<i>Revised</i>)
Policy/Regulation 5561	Use of Physical Restraint (<i>Revised</i>)
Policy 6150	Tuition Income (<i>Revised</i>)
Policy 6220	Budget Preparation (<i>Revised</i>)
Policy 6311	Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants (<i>New</i>)
Policy 6820	Financial Reports (<i>Revised</i>)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Mrs. Roseanne Lombardo, Chairperson
Mrs. Lisa Morina
Mrs. James Worrell

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

A. Workshops

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

NAME	WORKSHOP TITLE/LOCATION/ DATE	COST
Angela Addeo Gina Casella Toshia Kersey Suzanne Lavin Regina Minniti	Gloucester County Association of Educational Office Professionals Spring Workshop Meeting Swedesboro, NJ 4/28/11 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	\$125.00 (\$25.00 each)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Mr. Scott Campbell, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Motion: (Murschell/Vernacchio) to approve the following:

A. Bills Lists

1. The bills as presented by the Business Administrator in the following amounts are ordered paid. (Attachment –

EXHIBIT D)

NO.	AMOUNT
P49	\$272736.06
P50	\$247960.68
P51	\$294378.08

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: (Vernacchio/Morina) to approve the following:

B. Cafeteria Payments

1. The approval for the following cafeteria payments for **April 2011** as presented by the Board Secretary in the following amounts ordered paid.

CK#	DATE	PAYABLE TO	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
964	3/31/11	Nutri-Serve		\$2952.75
965	3/31/11	Nutri-Serve		\$619.88
966	4/8/11	Nutri-Serve		\$5125.86
			April Total Payout	\$8698.49

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

C. Student Activities Account

1. The approval of the Student Activities Account Monthly Bank Reconciliation for the month of **March, 2011**. (Attachments – EXHIBIT E)

D. Board Secretary's Report

1. The acceptance of the Board Secretary's Report for the month of **February, 2011**. (Attachment – EXHIBIT F)

- a. Pursuant to *N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10(c)*, the Greenwich Township Board of Education certifies by a roll as of **February 28, 2011**, after review of the Secretary's Reports for **February, 2011**, and consultation with the district officials, to the knowledge no major account or fund has been expended in violation of *N.J.A.C.6A:*

call vote that
Board
upon
best of our
over

23A-16.10(c)4 and that meet the district's financial fiscal year.

sufficient funds are available to obligation for the remainder of the

E. Treasurer's Report

17- Treasurer's the month of 1. The approval of the Treasurer's Report in accordance with 18A:36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of **February 2011**. The Report and Secretary's Report are in agreement for **February 2011**. (Attachment – EXHIBIT G)

F. Transfer List

accounts EXHIBIT H) 1. The ratification of transfers, authorized by the Superintendent, for the month of **February, 2011**, to give balances to new and to balance existing accounts. (Attachment –

G. Telecommunications Systems Purchase

\$84,858.00 system. no providing the permission to purchase of this 1. The approval of RFP Solutions, Inc.'s State Contract No. #A42293 Telecommunications System Proposal in the amount of for installation of a new district telecommunications/paging RFP has met all requirements for state approval and there is need to solicit additional bids. This company is presently service to the district. The Board of Education gives Superintendent and the Business Administrator execute any documents pertaining to the telecommunications system.

H. Nutri-Serve Contract

Nutri-2011- 1. The approval to renew the food service management contract between the Greenwich Township Board of Education and Serve Management, Inc. at the flat fee of \$14,280.00 for the 2012 school year.

I. Contract Execution

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose; and

resolution
Services” be bid

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law
(*N.J.S.A. 18A:18-5 et. seq.*) no longer requires that the
authorizing the award of contracts for “Professional
competitively;

of New

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the
Board of Education of Greenwich, County of Gloucester and State
Jersey, as follows:

1. The President and Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract for the 2011-2012 school year with:
 - a. Nutri-Serve as Food Services Management Provider.
2. The above contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a “professional service” under provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because the above persons or firms licensed to practice a recognized profession in the Jersey as above stated, and further such cannot be bid competitively because it is specifications for same in accordance statutes.

named are
State of New
services to be performed
impossible to prepare
with the above-captioned

Roll Call Vote:

- Lorraine LaPalomente – Yes
- Louis Fabiani – Yes
- Roseanne Lombardo – Yes
- Lisa Morina – No to item G; Yes to all others
- Jason Murschell – Yes
- Susan Vernacchio - Yes

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

- Mr. Louis Fabiani, Chairperson
- Mrs. Roseanne Lombardo
- Mr. James Worrell

Motion: (Lombardo/Morina) to approve the following:

- A. The approval for the Greenwich Township PTA to use the Nehaunsey Middle School library for Meet the Candidates Night on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Ms. Loraine LaPalomente, Chairperson
Mrs. Roseanne Lombardo
Mrs. Lisa Morina

No reports at this time.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jason Murschell, Chairperson
Mr. Louis Fabiani
Ms. Loraine LaPalomente

Jason Murschell stated that his committee had a brief meeting and it was decided that the committee will hold off for a few more weeks until the new board is seated.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Loraine LaPalomente, Chairperson
Mr. Louis Fabiani
Mr. Jason Murschell

No reports at this time.

PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Susan Vernacchio, Chairperson
Mrs. Lisa Morina
Mr. James Worrell

No reports at this time.

4. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mr. James Worrell, Board President

No reports at this time.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Loraine LaPalomento stated that she would like to bring to a vote to resolve to maintain the special council engaged in the matter at hand through and after the upcoming elections.

Motion: (Lombardo/Morina) to approve maintaining the special council through and after the upcoming elections.

Roll Call Vote:

Loraine LaPalomento – Yes
Louis Fabiani – No
Roseanne Lombardo – Yes
Lisa Morina – Yes
Jason Murschell – No
Susan Vernacchio – Yes

Motion passes 4 yes's to 2 no's

7. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter pertaining to the foreign language program was received from Cristie R. Nastasi dated April 5, 2011. (Attachment – EXHIBIT I)

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 you 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.

Cheryl Pindur, 113 South Orchard Street, Gibbstown, NJ wanted to speak about the proposal to drop Spanish from the Broad Street School. She stated that her opinion is not a personal front to any member of the Board of Education or Administrator. She stated that she was an educator for 38 years; 29 of them in Gibbstown (her hometown). She has seen administrators come and go; taking valuable programs with them. She feels that it will be the children of Gibbstown who will be left behind those of Deptford, Logan Township, East Greenwich Township, Elk Township, Franklin Township, Harrison Township, Mantua, National Park, Paulsboro, Pitman, South Harrison Township, Wenonah, West Deptford, Winslow and Woodbury Heights all of whom have a world language program in place in their lower elementary schools. She went on to say that it will be the children of Gibbstown that will be left to endure the effects of the boards' decision to eliminate Spanish instruction from Broad Street

School. She stated a case in point in which there was the elimination of the Developmental Kindergarten and the Reading Recovery Program which were two fine programs but were eliminated while the parents were told that these programs would be infused in the curriculum. It never happened. Now we are being told the same thing about Spanish. She wants to know why we in Gibbstown are going backward when research clearly proves the educational value of world language in the elementary level. Because of the quality education that our children receive, they fare very well at the high school level. She went on to say that for the last ten years, excluding 2007 and 2010, the Valedictorian from Paulsboro High School has been a Gibbstown student. Although 2010 we did not have a Valedictorian at Paulsboro High School, we did have one from Gibbstown at GCIT and in 2009, Paulsboro High School, GCIT and Gloucester Catholic High School's valedictorians were all Gibbstown students. She applauds the teachers of Broad Street and Nehaunsey Middle School and the Board of Education for providing the quality education our students have had. She is asking the members of the Board of Education to please reconsider and look long and hard at the research that substantiates retaining Spanish instruction at Broad Street School. She said that "Investment in knowledge pays the best interest" and it's a long-term investment in our children. In closing, she wanted to leave with a few words from the school song: *"In Gibbstown, we keep our standards high because we know the long, long road to education is the road that is starting here."*

Lee Lucas, 361 Democrat Road, Gibbstown, NJ stated that he was at one of his jobs and could not find a person that spoke English. He said that people that come to this country should learn how to speak English so they can talk and conduct business together with him. He feels that Spanish should be taught in the 9-12 grades and that should be sufficient. **Mr. Lucas** then asked why the school board president, Mr. Worrell, doesn't attend the meetings and he wanted the truth? **Loraine LaPalomto** replied that she didn't know where he was as she was not informed that he was going to be absent tonight. **Louis Fabiani** said that Mr. Worrell has been taking tests for a medical issue and is on medical leave. **Mr. Lucas** then asked if there is any employee that is litigating against a school board member—yes or no? **Vincent Tarantino** replied, "not that I know of".

Elizabeth Mitchell, 115 Watkins Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ stated that she had no intentions of addressing the board or the community at this meeting but she takes exception to the last comments that were made. She explained that she is a product of the Broad Street School and the Gibbstown school system and has been in education for 26 years. **Ms. Mitchell** stated that she holds a master's degree and an additional graduate degree as a Substance Abuse Coordinator and is currently employed by the Kingsway Regional School District. She said that she got her start at the Broad Street School as a student and then again as

an instructional aide while she was working on her teaching certificate. **Ms. Mitchell** stated that to eliminate world language for the students will be an injustice and to say that these people are invading our country.... We too are products of immigrants that came over. My family are immigrants and many of us here have family that immigrated here many, many years ago. An injustice that was done to us at that time was that when my grandparents came over, they were told to leave your customs and leave your language behind on the other side and because of that, they assimilated to the American culture and the speaking of their native language no longer exists. **Ms. Mitchell** went on to say that the Hispanic population is the largest growing population in our country and we, as an employee, become more marketable if we understand and speak another language. The research is out there. So please consider keeping foreign language at the lower level elementary school.

Terry DiSanto, Child Study Team employee, asked if the letter that was sent to the Board of Education from Mrs. Nastasi could be read in its entirety? **Loraine LaPalomente** obliged and read Mrs. Nastasi's letter.

Lori Chiavoroli, Tomlin Station Road, Gibbstown, NJ and teacher at Nehaunsey Middle School asked if the board would explain the last motion that was made because she didn't understand what it's impact was? **Loraine LaPalomente** replied that it is a special council that is currently engaged in a matter at hand and we wanted to make sure that that special council was continued through and after the elections and that is all she can say about that.

Cheryl Pindur spoke again about the importance of foreign language in our schools. She stated that she was part of a teacher exchange program in Russia along with 27 other schools. She spent time in the classroom and then the Russian teachers came here in the spring to our classrooms. In 2003, she and Ms. Bobbi Ann Magazu, former Greenwich Township Media Specialist, did a cultural exchange program in Thailand over the Christmas break. She stated that it is compulsory in schools in Europe for their students to learn another language and that language is English. She is now aware that a third language that is most popular is Spanish. Europe is starting to realize the importance of speaking Spanish because we have a whole Western Hemisphere of Spanish-speaking people. **Ms. Pindur** said that from her perspective, it is important for our children to be learning a foreign language at the younger age when they can absorb it better.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

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 **April 11, 2011** hereby resolves that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be held on **April 11, 2011**, at **7:50 p.m.** in the Nehaunsey Middle School library, Room 48, 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.

- Matters Required By Law To Be Confidential
- Matters Involving Individual Privacy
- Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship

It is anticipated that such matters 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: (Murschell/Lombardo) to enter into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m to discuss the following:

- Personnel

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion: (Fabiani/Morina) to return to the Regular Meeting at 8:30 p.m.

10. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Vince Tarantino addressed the audience with a new proposal involving curriculum and instruction. The position Diane Shirley currently holds at Broad Street School will remain the same but with more responsibilities. She is responsible for Technology, Media, BSIP and the Gifted and Talented Program. Michael Snyder, Special Education at Nehaunsey Middle School will also remain the same. The district will hire a Part-Time Media Specialist to service the Kindergarten, First and Second grades at Broad Street School and the Fifth grade at Nehaunsey Middle School. That Media Specialist will share the responsibility with the classroom teacher to help infuse world language and cultures into everyday learning and meeting the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. As far as world language, we will offer 24 periods at Nehaunsey Middle School. The language teacher will deliver instruction to Third and Fourth grade for 40 minutes per week alongside the classroom teacher during this time to infuse it into the curriculum. We will arm our teachers with enough materials and information to deal with the everyday foreign language in the school. Mr. Tarantino then spoke about the Kindergarten enrollment. The district only budgeted for two Kindergarten teachers but the enrollment numbers are growing. Keeping class sizes consistent are a luxury and are conducive to what you do in

the classroom and we are looking at keeping the class sizes small and manageable. So with this new proposal, we have managed to save all the positions with the exception of maybe one foreign language teacher.

Motion: (Lombardo/Fabiani) to accept the new proposal:

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Cheryl Pindur asked how the world language is going to be delivered? Vincent Tarantino explained that the world language teacher will visit the third and fourth grade classroom where they will receive 40 minutes per week of a foreign language. **Ms. Pindur** then asked about all the foreign language material that we spent money on that is in his/her classroom and on the walls? Will the foreign language teacher have to carry everything to each classroom? **Mr. Tarantino** replied that there are 14 different classrooms that can “share the wealth”. They also have a cart that they can use but it is something that the board will have to work on. They have “Art in the Cart”, Music in the Cart” and now they can have “Spanish or Italian in the Cart”. **Carina Jovanovic** asked when the decision will be made on whether the district will be going to teach Spanish or Italian? **Mr. Tarantino** responded that the district is still monitoring the surveys but expect to have the results by the next meeting? He also stated that he was very happy that the district was able to keep Stacy and Mike and hopefully hire another teacher for Kindergarten. **Patricia New**, teacher at Broad Street School stated that tenured staff have to be notified by April 30 as to whether or not they will be back. **Mr. Tarantino** said that both foreign language teachers will be receiving RIF notices.

Lee Lucas asked why the board can’t say why they have hired a special council? The taxpayers pay for it so why can’t we be told? **Vincent Tarantino** responded that there are certain things regarding counselors and lawyers that we really can’t discuss. **Mr. Lucas** stated that you are allowed to discuss the existence of it and the reasons why but you don’t have to go into detail. **Mr. Tarantino** explained that there is an issue that the Board of Education is investigating and they wanted to hire a lawyer for it and that is all that we can say at this time.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION #2

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 **April 11, 2011** hereby resolves that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be held on **April 11, 2011**, at **8:41 p.m.** in the Nehaunsey Middle School

library, Room 48, 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.

- Matters Required By Law To Be Confidential
- Matters Involving Individual Privacy
- 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: (Fabiani/Morina) to enter into Executive Session at 8:41p.m
to discuss the following:

- Personnel
- Legal

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: (Fabiani/Lombardo) to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vince Tarantino, Interim Superintendent