1	OFFICIAL MINUTES						
2	.	ODEOLAL MEETING (III. O					
3 4 5	Monday, September 26, 2011 in the Nehaunsey Middle School gymnasium.						
6 7	The n	he meeting was called to order by President Jason Murschell at 7:00 p.m.					
8	Roll C	Call·					
9	11011	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , 					
10		Jason Murschell					
11		James Worrell					
12		Alan Boultinghouse					
13		Louis Fabiani					
14		Roseanne Lombardo					
15		Lisa Morina					
16		Susan Vernacchio					
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18	Also	present were Mr. Vincent Tarantino, Interim Superintendent/Principal.					
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20	As re	equired under the guidelines of the Open Public Meeting Law, notice of this meeting					
21		was sent to the <i>The Gloucester County Times, The Courier Post</i> and the <i>Township</i>					
22		. It was also posted in the Greenwich Township School Buildings. (Optional:					
23		staping Regulations – "The proceedings of this meeting are being videotaped and					
24		ne wishing to discuss an individual child should so note.")					
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26	Absei	nt:					
27	, 1,500.	<u></u>					
28		Scott Campbell					
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30	OPENING PROCEDURES						
31	O. L.	THE TREE DELLE					
32	1.	PRESENTATION					
33	••	TREGERIATION .					
34		A presentation on the building consolidation project was made by Mr. Lou					
35		DeLosso of The Design Collaborative. Questions were then taken by the public.					
36		Decesso of the Design Collaborative. Questions were then taken by the public.					
37		Leonard Hurff, 608 Betty Rose Avenue, Gibbstown, wanted to know if it were					
38		true that any new building project had to be at sea level or above? Mr. DeLosso					
39		replied that it has to be above the base of elevation. Mr. Hurff then stated that if					
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41		we are going to add onto Nehaunsey Middle School, how many feet higher does					
41		it have to be than what the school is now? Mr. DeLosso replied that it has to be					
		11 feet above the flood stage. Mr. Hurff then said that it would not be					
43		handicapped accessible. Mr. DeLosso stated that they would put ramps in to					
44		bring it to code.					

John Banscher, Democrat Road, Gibbstown, wanted to know if there is any environmental impact on Broad Street School as compared to Nehaunsey School? Mr. DeLosso stated that Broad Street School has more of an asbestos concern but as far as an environmental hazard, there is none. Mr. Banscher then asked if there was any endangered species at Broad Street School? Mr. DeLosso replied that he doesn't know of any as of yet.

Fran Traband, 113 South Home Avenue, Gibbstown, wanted to know with all the rain that we have had, how is Nehaunsey School doing as far as mold is concerned? **Bill Houghton**, Greenwich Township Schools Facilities Manager, replied that we are putting exhaust fans in the hallways here at Nehaunsey School.

Mark Pandolfo, Marshall Avenue, Gibbstown, asked if there was mold in the basement/crawl space at Broad Street School? Mr. Houghton replied that there wasn't.

Suzanne Wigmore, Freund Avenue, Gibbstown, stated that she is concerned with the traffic that is around Broad Street School during the start of the school day and at dismissal. She went to say that if you add additional students, it is a safety issue and how will they control that? **Mr. DeLosso** said that it will be an issue that they will address if that building is chosen.

Kathleen DiBella, 37 North Orchard Street, Gibbstown, has an issue with the drop off/pick up procedures on Hudson Street. She wanted to know how they will accommodate the students who are dropped off or picked up because they will need another location other than just Hudson Street? Vincent Tarantino responded that they have identified that concern from the very beginning. We have been working with the Chief of Police and have patrolmen monitoring that. Mrs. DiBella said that she is concerned with the walking students; not the bus students. It is not controlled and it is dangerous and there will most likely be a lot more walkers if they consolidate to Broad Street School so she feels that that issue needs to be addressed.

Frank Wydenowski, Home & Railroad Avenue, Gibbstown, stated that he has a five year-old that he or his wife physically drops off and picks up every day at Broad Street School because he feels that Broad Street itself is not safe for any child to walk to. He has seen many people doing above the speed limit on Broad Street, he being one of them, and no cop has every stopped him. He has also seen tractor-trailer trucks going by above the speed limit. Mr. Wydenowski agrees that Broad Street, financially, would be the better option but they need to set up different options for the walkers. Mr. Tarantino stated that he certainly agrees with Mr. Wydenowski.

Mark Pandolfo wanted to know if the renovations at Broad Street School will include renovating all the classrooms and he also wanted to know about the asbestos? Mr. DeLosso replied that they will have to remove all the asbestos: then they will upgrade all the windows, HVAC, upgrade the electricity, provide a fresh coat of paint, remove and replace the ceiling system. Mr. Pandolfo asked about the flooring because he has noticed in some places in the school, the old wooden floor is buckled. He said that he is ready for something to be done but he wants his child to go to a "first-class school". He doesn't want "band-aids" put on just to save a couple dollars. "I'll pay for it; I don't care. I'll pay for it if it's done correctly." Mr. Pandolfo went to say that although this school (Nehaunsey) has its issues, when he walks in here, it is bright and airy and fun to be here. When he goes to Broad Street School, it is dark and dreary and he has seen mold on the walls in the auditorium. He said that he doesn't care which building you renovate, as long as it is done "first-class". Mr. Tarantino asked Mr. Pandolfo when was the last time he was at Broad Street School because they have put all new lighting in. Mr. Pandolfo said that he heard they put new lighting in but it is still dreary especially with the old tiles, there are cracks in the floors, the bathrooms are horrible, the doors are horrible and the plaster is cracked and then painted over. He heard that the architect has renovated many old schools but those schools were maintained. Our schools have not been maintained and that is the issue. Mr. DeLosso stated that he has renovated an older school in Williamstown; one that was from the turn of the century and it is now a beautiful, new looking, acting, feeling school. He also said that if we aren't going to do it right, then we don't do it at all.

Lee Lucas, 361 Democrat Road, Gibbstown, doesn't feel that this consolidation is going to save that much money. He said that many surrounding towns would love to have the problem we have here and that is too much classroom space. He wants to know how that became a problem and a reason to spend ten million dollars. He wants the school board to keep the two schools. If the school board abandons one of these buildings, the township will get one of these buildings and they don't have to go to referendum to renovate it. They will be able to do whatever they want and spend millions more. That is a fact that was not put into the consolidation project.

Denise Grovatt, 540 Tomlin Station Road, Gibbstown, and PTA President stated that the PTA does a lot of projects throughout the school year and she wanted to know where would the parents and people park that are attending the PTA sponsored activities? The architect said that there is parking on Railroad Avenue but the reason for this presentation is to get input from all the public and we can address those issues.

Kevin Leaf, 524 Swedesboro Road, Gibbstown, wanted to know what the difference was in the two proposals as far as cost to what we are paying now and how long do we have before we **have** to do something? Is it an emergency? **Mr.**

DeLosso replied that the infrastructure costs with the roofs, the HVAC system and the asbestos and also the ADA issue with Broad Street School, those issues have to be addressed.

Lisa Morina. School Board Member, asked why there was a discrepancy on the two slides for infrastructure costs between Broad Street School and the Nehaunsey Middle School? The Nehaunsey School slide shows \$95,000.00 for ADA, \$250,000.00 for food services and \$300,000.00 for environmental and on the Broad Street slide, they are missing. Mr. DeLosso said that the food services cost is included with the new cafeteria costs: the ADA is included in the new construction cost because of the elevator. Mrs. Morina said that there will be other ADA issues at Broad Street School to which Mr. DeLosso said that there will be plumbing issues, electrical issues and other issues. Mrs. Morina said she understood that but where is the ADA and environmental costs for the Broad Street School? Mr. DeLosso replied that HazMat is the environmental cost on the Broad Street slide. Mrs. Morina said that he has them separated on the Nehaunsey slide. Mr. DeLosso said that the environmental issues on the Nehaunsey slide are for the D.E.P. conditions. Mrs. Morina asked if he anticipates any D.E.P. issues at the Broad Street School to which Mr. DeLosso replied, "I don't anticipate D.E.P. issues at the Broad Street School" but he anticipates ADA issues because of the need to upgrade the bathrooms and the need for putting in ramps.

Susan Vernacchio, School Board Member, wanted the public to understand that they, as a school board, have not seen this presentation before. "I'm seeing it the same time you're seeing it." She explained that she was elected to look at things like this and she hasn't had a minute to do that. The Committee looked at it but the rest of the board has not. She apologized to the public in that if they have a question for her personally, she said she is in the same boat they are and she will not be able to answer it. **Mr. DeLosso** said that Mrs. Vernacchio is correct in that only the committee saw this report; not the whole board.

Loraine LaPalomento, 161 South School Street, Gibbstown, stated that in regards to Mrs. Vernacchio's last comment about the board not knowing about this presentation, you as a board are going to make the final decision as to which school we are going with and then you float the bond to the public. But we, as a public, don't choose; the board does and Ms. LaPalomento has a concern with that and she would hope that the board, as a whole, understands what's going on before we go to the bond referendum. She then asked if there was a "cushion" in the costs if you should break down walls and find any HazMat material? Mr. DeLosso replied that it is included in the \$3,000,000.00 "softcosts". Ms. LaPalomento also wanted to know when they would be doing this construction? Will you be doing the work in the summertime and during the holidays and what would happen if you are behind as what happened to the Clearview School District? Their project went over and they had to use trailers.

Does the soft-cost include trailers if we had to resort to that? Mr. DeLosso replied that he doesn't feel you need trailers if the project is scheduled properly and also what there is here at this district that they didn't have at the Clearview district is that there is additional classroom space that could be used. You don't need to rent trailers. If the board chooses Nehaunsey, the additions could take place with minimal disruption and a good portion of the construction could take place at Broad Street with minimal disruption. But there are other issues that will disrupt the Broad Street School such as replacing the boiler or the mechanical system. Ms. LaPalomento asked if there is enough money in the "soft-costs" to handle all that needs to be done? Mr. DeLosso replied that he believes there is enough to handle the projects as they represented them. He went on to say that if there are changes that the board would like to make, they, The Design Collaborative, will respond to those if they want something incorporated because it is the first time they have seen the entire package with all the numbers tonight. Ms. LaPalomento responded by saying that that "surprises" her and "concerns" her.

Sharon Salvatore, 122 Bacchus Avenue, Gibbstown, said that she hears there is an environmental issue here at Nehaunsey School but has there been an environmental study at the Broad Street School considering the plants that were built around Broad Street School? She also said that there is an eagle's nest around the pond that is a block from the Broad Street School. There have been eagle's nesting by the football field which isn't even a block from the Broad Street School and that is a concern of hers. She also feels it is a safety concern for the students at Broad Street School with the sidewalks being so close to the road. Mrs. Salvatore said that if we are going to make an old building better or a semi-older building better, then we have to think about the children and how their safety will be affected. "We would need sidewalks by the school instead of out by the road." She went on to say that drop-off systems are great but they get congested and if there is a football game, parents park all over and that includes by the school and if there is an event going on at the school, where would we be parking? Those are things that Mrs. Salvatore would like addressed.

Dave Hanly, 254 Aston Drive, Gibbstown, asked about the time-line for the construction and how long it would take? Mr. DeLosso replied that he wouldn't want to go to a December referendum because it is too fast, but the only reason he would suggest that is if word came down from the state that there was limited amount of money there. He suggested that the board digest the presentation that was here tonight and "not rush into anything". If we went to a January, 2012 referendum, the bidding will start in June, 2012 and then we would take advantage of some of the summer months but you are looking at a year and a half to two years of construction. Mr. Hanly also asked about the \$500,000.00 infrastructure costs and with Nehaunsey being 30 years younger, why is it so much? Mr. DeLosso explained that Nehaunsey School is all electric heat so it costs twice as much to run this school. Mr. Hanly wanted to know why the

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infrastructure costs at Broad Street School are not as much as they are here at Nehaunsey being Broad Street is so old and are you going to update the schools? Mr. DeLosso replied that the majority of the costs of Broad Street School are the plumbing and the HVAC, then the windows and the roof. Both schools have roof problems but not as much here as they do at Broad Street School. This school is smaller and will need to be built out whereas the Broad Street School you will not need to build out as much. Mr. Hanly asked if they are going to renovate everything? Mr. DeLosso said that everything will look brandnew. We will be replacing the ceiling system, the windows, the piping, the univents in each of the rooms; you have to repair what you are disrupting. "Is every square foot of that building going to be refurbished? No." Mr. DeLosso went on to say that they are looking at every major expenditure that will serve your children for the next 25 years which is the length of the bond. Mr. Hanly also had an issue with the parking situation. He said that Gibbstown isn't going to get any bigger than it is now but there still isn't enough parking at either building and that needs to be addressed. He then went on to say that he was under the impression that the school board had already decided that we are getting a new school and that the architects are here tonight so they can decide what school that would be. Mr. DeLosso replied that if he gave that impression during his presentation, then he apologizes because "that is not the case". He said that the board has asked them, The Design Collaborative, to explore both options to see what could be done, what the cost ramifications are and if either of the buildings were to close, treating them both fairly; that is what the board has asked and that is what they have in front of them tonight. Mr. DeLosso also said that they have gone through meetings with the committee and the administration. Mr. Hanly feels that we need a lot more information on this presentation before we can pass the vote because he feels it is very vague. Mr. DeLosso said that we are not trying to sell the public anything; we are trying to give you data and a benchmark to work on. This is not meant to be a "final decision" on anything other than giving you and the board "information".

Susan Vernacchio stated that the last time that we, the school board, went out for referendum, we had two proposals in front of us; one for Nehaunsey and one for Broad Street and Nehaunsey Middle School was dramatically cheaper than Broad Street School. Now all of a sudden, Broad Street is cheaper than Nehaunsey. She knows that we have to bring up elevation she understands about the D.E.P. issues but her question is, other than those things, is there anything else that would make the numbers change so dramatically? **Mr. DeLosso** replied that he can't speak for the prior referendums but based off of the square footages and based off of your program needs, these are the numbers that are required for both schools. We haven't had meetings with the teachers yet which would be very critical with this process.

Vincent Tarantino, Interim Superintendent, addressed those issues in saying that we had representatives from the administration from each building meet with

the architects to give them some ideas in general as to what is needed. **Mr. Tarantino** went on to say that he asked for volunteers from his staff at the Broad Street School and once the board makes a decision on what school, (it is still in the exploratory stages) that is when the teachers will come in and tell us what they need in each classroom. Everyone on the staff will have an input as far as he is concerned.

Megan Sizemore, teacher at Broad Street School, stated that currently the Broad Street teachers had to purchase their own air conditioners if they wanted them and she wanted to know if the air conditioning for the Broad Street School is incorporated in the cost that we didn't really see? **Mr. DeLosso** explained that it is the HVAC (heating, ventilation & air conditioning) item that is listed.

Leonard Hurff stated that this is a nice meeting but there are too many questions that still have to be answered that have not been answered. He said that Broad Street is a county road and if we don't want trucks to go down Broad Street, we can say that and they will put up a sign that reads, No Trucks. If we have to, we can make one-way streets. We pay them, (the county) so they have to do what we want. So no matter what the logistics are, if we make up our minds, either school, we can do what we want; not what the council wants; we are the voters and we just have to get some answers. Mr. Hurff also wants to know, before he votes, what will happen if we do away with one building? Somebody has to do the research because people want to know what will happen; somebody needs to tell us.

Fran Traband said she was reading the reports and sees how everyone is concerned about how much work needs to be done at Broad Street but she sees that there is just as much work that needs to be done here at Nehaunsey. She thinks it puts them both up in the air as far as expenses go. She also said that she read where they are putting in fans at the cost of \$8,000.00 to alleviate the mold problem so the children don't get sick. Mold is a very sickening situation so you have to keep your eye on that.

Mark Pandolfo said that the bottom line is and what everyone wants to know is how much are our taxes going to go up? If it means that his taxes are going to go up \$10.00 or \$12.00, then he will go with what he feels is truly the best option but if it is going to go up \$50.00 or \$100.00, then that is what he wants to know.

Mr. Pandolfo went on to say that based on the numbers in the presentation, he doesn't know how much his taxes will go up. Mr. DeLosso replied that he doesn't know the answer to that either.

Chuck Tortella, 414 Swedesboro Road, Gibbstown, asked if there was any communication with Mayor and Council in regards to this process and also what is going to happen with the other building? **Mr. Tortella** was reverting back to what Mr. Lucas said in that if the Board chooses to consolidate to Broad Street

School, what is going to happen to this building? Is the borough going to use this building? Is the board going to rent it because East Greenwich is floating a bond and looking for space? He would like to know that information before the referendum.

Kevin Leaf wanted to know that if we vote yes for the referendum, will we know what school was chosen? **Mr. DeLosso** replied that the public will know which school the board decided on before the referendum.

Lee Lucas said that he is looking around the audience tonight and he doesn't see the Mayor here and he thinks that is funny because Mayor Shivery and the council passed a resolution at the municipal meeting a few weeks ago, to have this meeting. Mr. Lucas said that they are the ones who came up with this idea. But I guess when they found out it was going to be a school board meeting, they "ran and hid". Mr. Lucas said that he doesn't see one council member here tonight.

Mark Wilgus, Democrat Road, Gibbstown, said that in defense of the Mayor and council, there was a discussion at their meeting for them to be here tonight but they didn't want to make this a political type of meeting; they wanted it to be an informational meeting. Mr. Wilgus wanted to make that clear in fairness to the Mayor and Council.

Lee Lucas replied that he thinks that the politics wouldn't work out for them; that is why they aren't here.

EdnaMae Graham, teacher at Broad Street School, said she would like to go back to the issue of student drop offs at Broad Street School. She said that right now, the teachers park behind the school on the other side of the fence by the playground. She said that on inclement days, especially when there is snow on the ground, it is a long distance to travel to get into the school and the sidewalk on the School Street side is pitched and very difficult to navigate even on a good day. Right now on inclement weather days, we park on the black top in the back of the school so she feels that this issue needs to be addressed. When the school has events like "Back to School Night", there needs to be a place to park. Mr. DeLosso said that they will look into that if Broad Street is the direction that the board wishes to go.

Sharon Salvatore had a question for the Board in reference to Mrs. Vernacchio's statement that this is the first time that she has seen this presentation. She is hoping that since the Board has chosen The Design Collaborative as the architect of record, that they have looked to see if there are any pending lawsuits, lawsuits and why there were lawsuits against your company and if so, have they looked at the "specs" for the building modifications that you made on other projects and have they been met or have they been

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higher at the end of the construction? We, as residents of Gibbstown, have these concerns about cost and she hopes the board keeps this in mind.

Lisa Morina said that the cost savings that you identified for either building when you put them at a side by side comparison basis, you are not considering any roll-back or roll-over. So in other words, if you take Broad Street School, you are going to have additional costs per year with the addition of more students. increased electricity usage and so on. So those are not the true numbers it will cost to run Broad Street School. Mr. DeLosso replied that that holds true for the Nehaunsey School also. Mrs. Morina's second question has to do with the bond referendum and she said that Mr. DeLosso mentioned that right now the New Jersey D.O.E. is in a 15-month holding pattern. But looking at potentially going out for referendum at the latest in March. 2012. has the D.O.E. mentioned or discussed publicly that they are going to release any funding? She feels it is kind of a moot point right now because if we don't have the 40%, we should not move forward. Mr. DeLosso stated that, "if you don't have the 40%, you should not proceed. You are absolutely correct." He went on to say that he received information that there is a pile sitting on the director's desk and politically he is being pressured to release some dollars to help with the economy and to address some of the needs of the schools that have applied. Mrs. Morina wanted to know if that was a pile of money or a pile of applications? Mr. **DeLosso** responded that it was a pile of applications for debt service aid which is approved by the legislature and the governor has not allowed that to go through until he is comfortable that the legislature and the state budget can absorb it. Mrs. Morina then said that starting construction by next summer is probably not going to happen because we don't even have our application in. Mr. DeLosso replied that if the state decides to start releasing state aid, we will do what has to be done in order to get your share of the state aid but as to when that is going to occur, he doesn't know. He did say that it is imminent but they are going to act on the applications that are sitting on the director's desk as quickly as possible in that order, then continue to take additional applications. Mr. DeLosso went on to say that until you have the preliminary eligible cost letter issued from the Department of Education that states in plain English that they are giving you a certain amount of dollars, you don't have the authority to proceed on a referendum from the state. Mrs. Morina then wanted to clarify that is it our intent to go to the Commissioner of Education with both schools or choose a school prior to submitting our application? Mr. DeLosso replied that the state aid is based on square footage and student enrollment. When you look at student enrollment for each grade level, there is 120 square feet per student in grade levels pre-K to grade five (5) and in grade levels six (6) through eight (8), there is 134 square feet allocated per student. If you take those calculations with both buildings as they are presently open, you would not have any "eligible" square footing because you have too much square footage. So you would not get state aid for any new construction whatsoever. In order to get the state aid, for any new construction, one selection has to be made whether it is Nehaunsey Middle

School or the Broad Street School and it won't be any greater than the \$143.00 per square foot. So in answer to Mrs. Morina's question, you can't go to the Commissioner with both buildings; you have to choose one. **Mrs. Morina** then stated to her fellow board members that based on that situation in that the D.O.E. is not releasing state aid just yet, that we should take our time and not push this ahead and to also make sure we evaluate this as a whole board and look at all the different options. It is quite possible that we are costing the taxpayers money in the long run by "shoving this down their throats" by not taking our time.

Jason Murschell, School Board President, stated that Mr. DeLosso indicated in his previous presentation that with the current economic conditions, it is easier to negotiate with the contractors regarding the price. What Mr. DeLosso actually said was that the bidding market is extremely competitive and we are getting very good bidding prices. If you look back at three or four years ago, they were at least 20-30% higher than they are now. Mr. Murschell then said that it is fair to say that in the current conditions, we can get some of the best prices that we can and then should things turn and we have to sit on it, we can still save a substantial amount of money. Mr. DeLosso said that potentially those things exist. He also reiterated his point that unless something comes down from the state that says you are getting a specific amount of funding, don't go out for referendum in December. "Take the time to look at what your decision is." You have a lot of input here tonight and we can help you address those questions. Whatever direction you desire to take, we will give you the best answers to those questions.

Leonard Hurff said that he didn't know about anybody else but he feels that there are a lot of things that the board hasn't told us. He wants to know what is going to be done to the building that is left and he would like to hear some ideas on what they plan on doing with the school that is vacant. He has heard a lot of scenarios but as a taxpayer, he wants to know.

Lee Lucas stated that Mr. Hurff had an excellent question and in answer to that, Mr. Lucas said that the reason they are doing this is so the township can "get their mitts on this building". They want a bigger police station and a bigger municipal building. That is why they didn't come tonight because they knew I would say that. They want a bigger municipal building and they will spend millions of dollars to get it and you will not be able to do anything about it.

Mr. DeLosso then thanked everyone for their participation tonight and concluded his presentation.

Jason Murschell stated to Mr. DeLosso and The Design Collaborative that they put a lot of time into this presentation and they gave the school board a good solid base to work with and a good amount of information to look at and he appreciates it.

Louis Fabiani said that based on the presentation given by The Design Collaborative that running the Broad Street School will be less money and the state aid that might be available later down the road and the fact that this district is spending 2.3 million dollars, consolidation will go a long way to decreasing that figure. I believe the citizens of this district deserve our due diligence that they allow the money that is spent every year for education in the present state of the economy. I would like to make the following motion: That Broad Street School be made the school of choice and that The Design Collaborative be given the authority to do what is necessary for a referendum to be brought to the voters of this district as soon as possible. This referendum would also make the Broad Street School the sole operating school in Greenwich Township and to allow for the final step of the consolidation process.

Motion: (Fabiani/Worrell) to approve the Broad Street School as the school board's choice for the school consolidation project.

Lisa Morina would like to suggest to the public that "that is an embarrassment to this board. There is a committee that was formed specifically to push the Broad Street School forward; not that I am opposed to the Broad Street School or nor am I for the Nehaunsey School; I am for the taxpayers." She stated that there were several members of this board that got this presentation when we sat down at 7:00. "This is supposed to be special meeting. I'm frankly ashamed of this board. We were not supposed to have any business conducted." There are a few agenda items, one that was brought up from the floor for a workshop that was given to her as an apology. Mrs. Morina went on to say that "we are going to bring up from the floor a resolution, that is so important to the taxpayers of this community, without full discussion of this board, I found that to be, I don't know, "absurd", "embarrassing", and frankly I question the ethics." We are a board of seven; we are not a board of two or three and for that to be done, I think it is shameful for every person who voted for those of us who are being excluded in this decision. "And I don't know why this has to be rushed through. We just heard from The Design Collaborative that there is no public money available so for this to be rushed through to be put on as a referendum item prior to the end of the year, frankly is "unconscionable" and it really is a disgrace for the taxpayers of Greenwich Township." "Not to mention the students", said Susan Vernacchio.

Jason Murschell said that there was no mentioning in that motion of a date and that all it said was that we would choose the Broad Street School and would like to see it through to a referendum as quickly as possible which would indicate that all the proper steps be taken including making sure there is money from the state. As far as the seven members of the board, a motion was brought and it was seconded. Every member will get a chance to voice their opinion, whether it be yes or no. We are not excluding anyone from their vote. Mr. Murschell said that he was just going to speak for himself in that when we ran for this board two

years ago, I ran strictly on the platform that I would vote for Broad Street School. He also said that he made sure that he would absolutely look at the options for Nehaunsey School as well, because we aren't going to spend twice as much for one school as the other. But looking at the presentation, it isn't that much more or less expensive for one school or the other, "then I am going to stick to the thing that 700 people voted for me out of 1100 to do. And that was all I ran on" and that was to look at Broad Street School.

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James Worrell stated that "the committee was not formed to choose any school; the committee was formed to go out and get an architect, to have them look at the facts and figures, come back to us and let us know what they feel the cost is going to be." As far as the Mayor and Council not being present tonight, they spoke with their attorney and were told it would violate the "sunshine law". He went on to say that of the two buildings, the building that is "most sellable" and "most leaseable" would be the Nehaunsey School so we would not be stuck with a "white elephant". We have been approached by another school district questioning the availability of leasing this school. Mr. Worrell said that the Broad Street School will be brought into the 21st century. He said that there is no mold in the basement or the crawlspace at Broad Street School because he has been there and crawled in the crawl space and he also has been on the roof. Mark Pandolfo said that he would like to see the study on that. Mr. Worrell said that "this committee did not go into this with a school in mind. This committee went into this to get an architect and look at what we have. What's going to be more cost effective for the taxpayers of this township." He also stated that this presentation that was given tonight was not the same one the committee saw so he was seeing it for the first time just like the rest of the board. Susan Vernacchio then wanted to know why you would make a decision on something that you saw for five minutes? She also said that Mr. DeLosso told us to wait.

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Roll Call Vote:

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Alan Boultinghouse – Yes Louis Fabiani – Yes Roseanne Lombardo – No Lisa Morina – No Susan Vernacchio – No James Worrell – Yes Jason Murschell - Yes

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2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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Motion: (Murschell/Worrell) to approve the following:

1 2 3		A.	The approval for the appointment of the Jennifer Kirk as a Substitute Custodian for the 2011-2012 school year. Substitute rate of pay will be \$8.50 per hour.				
4 5 6		Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.					
7 8	<u>3.</u>	COMMITTEE REPORTS					
9 10 11 12			REGULATORY James Worrell, Chairperson Louis Fabiani Roseanne Lombardo				
13 14 15		Motio	n: (Worrell/Murschell) to approve the following:				
16 17 18		A.	The approval to purchase exhaust fans for the Nehaunsey Middle School to eliminate the excess moisture problem. Cost not to exceed \$8,000.00.				
19 20		Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.					
21 22		The following items are informational:					
23 24 25 26 27		B.	The Committee agreed to replace the air conditioning compressor at Nehaunsey Middle School with a window unit in lieu of the \$2,250.00 replacement cost of the compressor. The cost for the window unit is \$399.00.				
28 29 30 31 32		C.	The Committee discussed and authorized replacing the broken air conditioning units at Broad Street School. Bill Houghton is in the process of identifying the broken units. No decision to purchase will be made until it is determined how many units need to be replaced.				
33 34 35 36 37 38		D.	The Soccer Association has requested that cameras be installed on the playing fields owned by the Board of Education due to excessive vandalism. Bill Houghton will be meeting with Michael Grelli and Brian Nastase, electrician, to determine if cameras can be installed and connected to the district's computer system.				
39 40 41 42		E.	The Committee discussed the need for a generator at Broad Street School to accommodate the district's and the township's needs. Discussion is ongoing.				
43 44 45		F.	The Committee authorized a local plumbing company to conduct a smoke test at Nehaunsey Middle School to determine if there is a sewer gas leak at the school. The cost of the test is \$500.00. Previously the plumber				

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- tested the sewer line by placing a camera in the line to determine if there was a break in the pipe, but did not find anything.
- G. The Committee authorized Bill Houghton to seek quotes for removing the hot water tank at Nehaunsey Middle School. There is a possibility that the district will be able to be compensated for the metal value of the tank.

Motion carried to accept the informational reports as read.

POLICY/REGULATION

Jason Murschell, Chairperson Louis Fabiani Lisa Morina

No report at this time.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Lisa Morina, Chairperson Alan Boultinghouse Roseanne Lombardo

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

A. Workshops

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

NAME	WORKSHOP TITLE/LOCATION/DATE	COST
Alisa Whitcraft Robert Harris	McRel Administrator Training Delsea Middle School Franklinville, NJ 10/14/11 and 10/19/11 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	\$499.00 each (Plus \$250.00 each for software license and handheld device to use when trained) Plus Mileage

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Susan Vernacchio, Chairperson Alan Boultinghouse Roseanne Lombardo

No report at this time.

4. PUBLIC – AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

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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.

Jen Campbell, 59 Mason Avenue, Gibbstown, wanted to express her concerns about her daughter's bus that ran a stop sign two days in a row and was speeding with a bus load of children. **Vincent Tarantino** said that these complaints were brought to the transportation office and taken care of.

Lori Chiavoroli, teacher at Nehaunsey Middle School, started by saying that she was a little emotional and she doesn't know where to begin. She said that she has been teaching in this district for over 30 years and it has been a blessing because she is happy to be a part of this district. She said it doesn't matter what school she teaches in, whether it be Broad Street or Nehaunsey. She just wants it to be a safe, cheerful, happy environment. Mrs. Chiavoroli went on to say that in her class this week, her students are learning about the American Government and how a representative government is supposed to work and how wonderful it is. She actually was "toying with the idea" of having her students attend a board meeting but said that if she had done this tonight, she would have been humiliated for her students and then would have been nervous about going into her classroom tomorrow to try to answer their questions about what went on here tonight. She told the board that they are elected officials that are supposed to represent the voters and instill confidence for us in you but she doesn't have confidence in the board right now. "You scare me to death". She looked to board member Alan Boultinghouse and said that he was engaged in a conversation with Mrs. Morina at the same time Mr. Murschell was making a motion and while he was engaged in that conversation, they called his name for a vote and he voted, "yes". She didn't think he knew what he was saying "yes" to and that scares her. She went on to say that she has been to many board meetings over the years but in the ones that she has been to this year, she noticed that Mr. Boultinghouse doesn't openly express his opinion about anything. It appears to her and she stated that if she was wrong, she apologizes, but it appears to her that he votes yes to whatever. "I would feel so much better if I heard your opinion about things one way or the other." She then turned to Louis Fabiani and told him that the motion he made was brought here tonight, in his pocket, and was "typed out", "scripted" and "planned." You put it on the table without any consideration about the people who were here and the concerns that they expressed and the architectural firm that was in such controversy with this board. They are ones that you embraced, the ones that you wanted and the gentleman who made the presentation, said that he felt that it was wise to take one step at a time and not rush into anything. "The very man in whom you put your

confidence. "Then he walked out and half the people in here walked out and then you take out your "script" and you made that motion and I feel like this meeting tonight was just a "show" and a "sham"; she is sorry but that is how she feels. She said that Mr. Fabiani made this happen so that when everyone left, he would "slide in that motion". She said that she is on the verge of tears. She is embarrassed, humiliated and ashamed and in all the meetings that she has been to, she has never felt compelled to say that. She even thought about not saying anything tonight but if she had not, she would have gone home and tossed and turned all night. She wondered what the townspeople, who were here and left, will think that you, as a governing body, were going to take their ideas and take them back to committee and the architect and fine tune everything but it appears that you didn't even care what their concerns were tonight. You just shoved it in their face. She concluded by saying that she was "so sad" and "so humiliated".

Sharon Salvatore, teacher at Nehaunsey Middle School and resident of Gibbstown stated that she is very disappointed at how the board pushed through that vote. She thinks it should be retracted because you are representing not just those who voted for you, you are representing all the people in Greenwich Township. We were told by the architect that there is "no rush". The news is telling us that there is a "double recession" so time we have. But for you to bring this to the people of Greenwich Township in that manner, is extremely disappointing.

Lee Lucas, 361 Democrat Road, Gibbstown, finds it hard that Mayor Shivery could not attend this meeting because of "legal reasons". He is a resident of this town and he could have come. "That's ridiculous." And you are going to make a \$10 million decision? Mr. Lucas asked School Board President Jason Murschell why he wants to consolidate the schools? Mr. Murschell replied that after the initial expense of the bond and the savings we will have after closing the other school and the credits we will get for the solar energy, it is going to save money in the long run. Sometimes we have to see beyond the next five or ten years, but in15 years when we see that money, that three or four hundred thousand dollars that we save, we will be able to buy new equipment and new programs for the kids. We may be able to bring back the band or home economics for the kids. Mr. Murschell went on to say that it takes time to get there. It is not an overnight decision. Mrs. Vernacchio and Mrs. Lombardo interrupted by saying that "it was a ten-minute decision"! Mr. Murschell then said that it has been years since the last "failed" referendum of which a lot of the people had been saying that they wanted to go to Broad Street School. We wanted to make sure that we looked at the numbers and the savings at Nehaunsey came in at \$10 million and the savings at Broad Street came in at \$20 million. You can't very well justify that. Nobody is saying that we can't take all this wonderful information from the public to the architect. Listening to the ideas from the public tonight is not going to change it by millions of dollars at either school that would justify it one way or the other. Mr. Lucas then said that the reason the board wants to consolidate is

because they will save money? He said that the solar cannot be counted on because it is subsidized by the federal government and will probably stop one day and it is not very economical. **Mr. Lucas** also noticed in the plans that there is a Pre-K program and he knows a lot of people want to start their kids in school at age three. So there is the labor costs of the teachers and programs and he wants to know if you are considering that as part of the cost? **Mr. Murschell** replied that as far as Pre-K, his opinion is that as much education that they can get, the better. He has no problem with putting children in school at age three because that is just going to benefit our kids.

Mark Pandolfo, Marshall Avenue, Gibbstown, said that when they did the study years ago about consolidating schools, Nehaunsey was the cheaper of the two schools. Now all of a sudden, Broad Street is the cheaper one. Why the difference now? I know it is a different architectural firm; an architectural firm that "you four" wanted that had different numbers and he knew that those four "ran" on Broad Street School. Mr. Pandolfo stated as he did earlier that he is not opposed to either school but he thinks there is "a lot of shady things going on". Maybe this is the school to get rid of. This is a very doable school when it comes to selling it. But if this school is so good; good enough to get rid of, then why don't we keep it for our kids? I remember the other referendum that we had around eight years ago and Nehaunsey was the most economical one. Roseanne Lombardo said that there was a lot more funding back then also. Mr. Pandolfo then asked what it was before the funding, and Mrs. Lombardo replied that the numbers were much better for this building. Louis Fabiani stated that originally the referendum back in 2004 did not include the Broad Street School. Mr. Pandolfo asked if they did a study of what it would cost? Susan Vernacchio responded, "yes they did". Mr. Fabiani said that it was after the people of Gibbstown forced the board at that time to show them what the price was for the Broad Street School. At the time, the Nehaunsey School was \$14 million and the Broad Street School was \$15 million. It was a \$1 million difference but we were never given the choice. Mr. Pandolfo responded by saying that "we were not given the choice here either." Mr. Fabiani said that the architect said that we can only present one choice to the state. Mr. Pandolfo said that the board didn't even give us the chance to go home and talk to our family members about it. He told Mr. Fabiani that he is not for this school or for the other one but eight years ago he was told that Nehaunsey is the better school; now you are telling me that Broad Street is the better school. "I am perplexed."

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41 42 **Leonard Hurff**, 608 Betty Rose Avenue, Gibbstown, interrupted by saying that he understands that Mr. Pandolfo is "perplexed" but he asked him if he has seen any new housing going on in this town to which **Mr. Pandolfo** replied, "no". **Mr. Hurff** said that you have to be above sea level so you can't build here.

Mr. Pandolfo went on to say that he doesn't know what is the best way to go. All he knows is that he wants the best. He told the board that maybe they should have had two architects. Lisa Morina stated that the other board actually had voted on another architect back in February, then after the election, this board rescinded that vote and chose The Design Collaborative. Mr. Fabiani said that what transpires here is going to go to the voters who have the final say and we don't know what the outcome will be. The two referendums for Nehaunsey failed. Mr. Pandolfo said that the board members didn't even see the presentation tonight until they sat down. They had no idea what was going to be presented tonight. Roseanne Lombardo told Mr. Pandolfo that she was on the committee with Lou Fabiani and Jim Worrell and she saw the first presentation over the summer. She was invited in with all the administrators. She thought it was a good presentation; there were no exact numbers back then. But she also said that she "had no clue what was going to happen tonight". All she knew is that they were having this meeting tonight to see what we can do with Broad Street School and what we can do with Nehaunsey School. She said that she really wanted to go home and look over her paperwork to see what the difference was. She also understands Mr. Pandolfo's desire to have a "beautiful school" for his kids to ao.

Frank Wydenowski, 41 North Home Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ said that he understands why the board did what they did because next week the state could release the money and then we won't have anything ready to go. But his question is that who will benefit from Nehaunsey being leased out? Does the school benefit from the money from the lease, does the township benefit or does each individual resident benefit where we will get a tax break where our taxes don't go so high? Jason Murschell replied that since the school is the owner of the property, the school district would benefit. Those funds would be used for future programs once the bond referendum has been paid for and eventually it would lead to a tax decrease. As far as the use of the building, it is all just speculation until the bond referendum is passed and the board can't enter into an agreement with any group until that time.

Denise Grovatt, 540 Tomlin Station Road, Gibbstown, NJ stated that she agrees with Mrs. Chiavoroli in that she is disappointed. She is hearing that when she voted for board members, she basically voted for a school. To her that is disappointing because she thought she was voting for a person who was the best interest for us, our students and our township; not for a building. She went on to say that she was not aware of that and she would like to know if there are any other "hidden things" that we voted for besides our students and the people in our town. What else do we not know because it didn't say that when I went in that voting booth that if I voted for Mr. Fabiani that I was voting for the Broad Street School. I wasn't aware of that. Louis Fabiani explained that when he ran four years ago, he ran to give the people of Gibbstown the opportunity to vote for the Broad Street School. Mrs. Grovatt wanted to know why you would vote for

a building? Why would you not vote for what is the best interest for the school? "A building is just a building". Why is it not for our children and what the children need and what our township needs? Why are you voting for a building? Mr. Fabiani said that in 2004 & 2005, the voters in Gibbstown turned down the Nehaunsey referendum twice. It has been six years now so when he ran, he ran with the idea that he was going to present to the people, if possible, the opportunity to vote for the referendum for the Broad Street School. Mrs. Grovatt said it should be what is inside the school; not the building itself. You made that motion without going back and discussing it. The rest of the board should have had an opportunity to discuss it. She said that she is not for one building or the other. She wants what is best but for you to make that decision and come in with your "typed" letter, you had already decided it so it was a moot point to have this meeting and have the public here because you had already made your decision and it makes me afraid of what else you are going to discuss and make decisions on without getting the rest of the board involved. You are going to do what you want to do and not what is best for everyone else because you have the majority vote. What gives you the right to make that decision on your own with just a few people and not the rest of the board? From what she understands, it is supposed to be all of the board making the decisions together. It seems that it never works that way because it is always 4 against 3. Mr. Fabiani responded by saying that "we are in a represented form of government right here". Everybody has their own opinion and his opinion is that he feels that the residents of Gibbstown should have an opportunity to vote for the Broad Street School. That was how he voted. Mrs. Grovatt said that if you listened to the people out here, you should have at least gone back and discussed it with each other. Mr. Fabiani said "that's the way it is". Mrs. Grovatt said "that is not the way it is supposed to work." When we first started this, we talked about the "ethics committee." We sat and learned about ethics and I don't feel that this board is following ethics and frankly I am very upset about this. I have never been more disappointed sitting at a board meeting. Mrs. Grovatt concluded by saying that we are just the public and she feels that our opinion doesn't matter. She went on to say that she takes pride in this school and she does a lot for this school and it is all voluntary and she is really upset at the way you people are treating each other and the way you treated the public. She feels that everything that we do to help the school you are doing for a building and not what is inside the building. She sees Mr. Tarantino trying to help the children and all the efforts put into the students but she only hears about the board talking about a building and not what it inside the building. She said that if Broad Street is what's best for the children, then that is what she wants to hear; what is best for them and not what is best for you guys sitting up there.

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Megan Sizemore, teacher at Broad Street School, wanted to thank Lori Chiavoroli because she has an eloquent way of putting things. **Ms. Sizemore** went on to say that eight years ago, she was hired here as a teacher and considers it a blessing to come back and teach across the hall from where she

 went to Kindergarten and to work with some of the same co-workers that taught her. But she said that in the eight years that she has been here, the moral at Broad Street is at an all-time low. She also said that she works with five-year olds and she couldn't help but notice that the whole time Mrs. Chiavoroli was speaking, no one made eye contact with her and if you are not aware, next week is "Respect Week" in school. She welcomed everyone to come into her Kindergarten class between 1:45 p.m. and 2:25 p.m.; we are teaching all about respect.

Alan Boultinghouse, board member, wanted to respond to Mrs. Chiavoroli in regards to her saying that he cast a vote while engaged in a conversation with Mrs. Morina. He stated that he was being insulted by her and he was responding. Mrs. Chiavoroli said that those are just observations that she made and she did not intend to insult him in any way. She didn't name call; it was just an observation. Mr. Boultinghouse went on to say that the reason he voted yes is because he received the agenda ahead of time and read through it and there was nothing that he disagreed with so when the vote came up, he voted for it. Mrs. Chiavoroli responded by thanking Mr. Boultinghouse for clearing up the fact that he did indeed read through the agenda and he knew he was voting yes for everything. He explained his actions and she appreciates that.

Janet Shivers, teacher at Nehaunsey Middle School, asked if the board had a plan if this referendum doesn't pass? She has heard the senior citizens come in and say they don't want their taxes to go up and they are a big majority in this community. She is concerned that if we put "all our eggs in one basket" and consolidate to Broad Street School and the referendum doesn't pass, what are we going to do; aren't we are going to have to deal with what we have now? James Worrell said that we would turn around and go with another referendum. Lisa Morina stated that the assumption was made that the previous referendums failed because it was for Nehaunsey School but in reality, and Mrs. Shivers agreed with her, no one wanted their taxes to go up. Mrs. Shivers also said that she has heard it from more than one senior citizen and even after the last presentation, some of them even went up to Mr. Tarantino to express their concerns about their taxes going up. That is something we have to look at; not just try to save one building or the other.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: (Fabiani/Worrell) to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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5	Vincent Tarantino, Interim Superintendent
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