

**CLIFTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
CLIFTON, NJ 07013
MINUTES**

SPECIAL MEETING: Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 9:00 AM

LOCATION: Clifton High School Annex Media Center, 290 Brighton Road, Clifton, NJ

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MEET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL, NEGOTIATIONS AND/OR LITIGATIONS.

The meeting was opened by the Board President.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Fahim Abedrabbo
Mr. Tafari Anderson – arrived 9:10 a.m.
Ms. Judith A. Bassford – left 10:35 a.m.
Mr. James Daley
Ms. Lucy Danny - absent
Mr. Lawrence Grasso
Mr. Frank Kasper
Mr. Gary Passenti - PRESIDENT
Ms. Rosemary L. Pino – VICE PRESIDENT – absent

Mr. Passenti noted that Ms. Pino had a work obligation today which prevented her attendance at this meeting.

ALSO PRESENT:

Richard Tardalo, Superintendent of Schools
Mark Tietjen, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Edward J. Appleton, Interim Business Administrator
Michael Ucci, Board Secretary

READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT:

“THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW WAS ENACTED TO INSURE THE RIGHT TO THE PUBLIC TO HAVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF AND TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS OF PUBLIC BODIES AT WHICH ANY BUSINESS AFFECTING THEIR INTEREST IS DISCUSSED OR ACTED UPON.”

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, THE CLIFTON BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS CAUSED NOTICE OF THIS MEETING TO BE PUBLICIZED BY HAVING THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE THEREOF POSTED AT THE CITY CLERK’S OFFICE, CLIFTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, SENIOR CITIZEN NUTRITION CENTER, ON CABLE TV, IN THE LOCAL PRESS, ON THE DISTRICT’S WEB SITE, AND MAILED TO PRESIDENTS OF PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS.

THIS MEETING WILL BE TAPE RECORDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY – 0168...

PUBLIC RECOGNITION:

Keith Bassford commented relative to absent Board members and the cost of boiler repairs. Mr. Passenti noted that Ms. Danny was attending a doctorate class today. He also noted that capital projects, ethics and the evaluation of the Superintendent will be discussed today.

Mr. Daley requested that residency, finance and professional services issues be discussed as well.

BOARD RETREAT

Kathleen Helewa from New Jersey School Boards had each Board member introduce themselves and gave a PowerPoint presentation. Handouts were provided. Highlights included:

- Ethics
- Superintendent's Evaluation

Ms. Helewa turned the meeting over to Mr. Grasso to read the following list of completed capital reserve projects:

- Stadium Upgrade to Turf
- CHS Athletic Turf Field
- Schools 16, 14, 4, 5, 9, 11 and 13 – New Boilers
- Schools 14 and 16 – Electrical Upgrade
- Schools 1, 5, 9, 16, 3, 14, 13, WWMS, CHS, Admin. Bldg. – New Roofs
- School 5 – Replaced Damaged Roof Support Beams
- Schools 1 and 8 – Parking Lot Paving
- CHS, WWMS, CCMS, CHS Annex – Security Camers
- Schools 14, 16, WWMS and 3 Wings at CHS – New Windows
- All Schools and Transportation Bldg. – Burglar Alarms
- Stair Tower Doors Replaced – All Schools with Two or More Floors
- CHS – Locker Replacements in All Hallways
- CHS Auditorium – New Seats, Curtains, Sound System, Stage Lighting, Stage Floor
- CHS East Wing – Electrical Upgrade
- CCMS – Girls Softball Fields
- CCMS – Drainage Upgrade
- District Security Upgrade (Eastern DataComm)
- CHS – Auditorium Air Conditioning, LED Lighting, Ceiling, Sound Upgrade

Future Capital Projects Discussed

- School 2 – Electrical Upgrade
- Admin. Bldg. – Network Server Generator
- CHS – Network Server Generator
- District Wide LED Lighting Gym and Stage
- School 3 – Window Replacement - \$500,000-\$575,000
- CCMS – Window Replacement and Auditorium Renovation - \$1,900,000-2,400,000
- School 1 – Boiler Replacement & Window Replacement
- CHS – Paving East Wing Parking Lot - \$300,000-\$350,000

Administration noted that the monies for projects would come out of capital reserve and/or maintenance reserve. He commented about necessary repairs to School #15's roof and re-keying of doors in the district.

Administration answered questions regarding boiler repairs at CCMS. Ms. Bassford asked for an analysis of costs for boiler repairs.

Administration commented regarding security in the schools. A letter will be going to parents with information pertaining to security and the protection of students.

There was a discussion relative to the need for a project manager and the status of the CCMS softball field.

It was noted that the long range facility plan is a state program, updated periodically, to which projects must be submitted by an architect. Plans are theoretical until architects and engineers submit plans to the state for approval.

There was discussion regarding cost containment relative to architects and the hiring of a project manager.

District air conditioning was also discussed. It was noted that the cost could exceed \$20 million; the possible need for a referendum was further discussed. It was noted that security is a priority.

There was discussion regarding bond referendums.

Mr. Passenti asked Mr. Ucci to take a poll on an air conditioning referendum and a security referendum. Prior to the informal poll, there was a discussion relative to electrical upgrades. It was noted that an air conditioning project could take 5-6+ years to complete.

There was a straw poll to bring the idea of an air conditioning referendum to committee. All Board members present unanimously agreed.

There was a straw poll to bring the idea of a security referendum to committee. All Board members present unanimously agreed.

The use of a grant writer, shared services with the city and the upcoming Passaic/Bergen School Boards meeting was discussed.

There was a five minute break at this time.

Kathleen Helewa gave her presentation on evaluating the Superintendent. Handouts were provided. Highlights included:

- Introduction to the Superintendent Evaluation – Tool and Process
- Superintendent Evaluation Process – Flowchart and Calendar
- Superintendent Goals Assessment
- Superintendent Standards Assessment
- Superintendent Annual Performance Report
- FAQs

Ms. Helewa answered questions relative to the new evaluation process. Administration advised that the Superintendent search should begin November, 2018. There was a discussion relative to selecting a new Superintendent.

Ms. Helewa gave a presentation on ethics at this time. Handouts were provided. Highlights included:

- Ethics Commission
- Advisory Opinions
- Punishments – Violation of the Code of Ethics
- Social Media

Ms. Helewa answered questions regarding hiring a public relations person.

- Chain of Command
- Authority Rests with the Board of Education
- Confidentiality

There was a discussion relative to the process of reporting ethics violations and potential penalties.

- Conflicts of Interest - Collective Bargaining
- Collection of Money
- Exit Interviews
- School Board Notes

It was noted that the district's auditor will be working on residency and non-special education out-of-district students' tuition bills.

Ms. Helewa was thanked for her presentation.

The following items were brought up for future discussion: charter school and PCTI costs, tax abatements, Medicaid reimbursement, health insurance, registration, Election Day security and moving the Board election to April.

ADJOURNED: 1:00 PM

[NOTE: This document is subject to additions, withdrawals, and modifications without notice.]

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Ucci
Board Secretary

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