

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – April 15, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Delanco Board of Education was held on April 15, 2015 in the M. Joan Pearson School cafeteria, Delanco Township, Burlington County, New Jersey. Vice President, Mr. Phil Jenkins called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

A moment of silence was observed. The flag was saluted.

On roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Ken Adams, Mr. Dennis Bryski (via video-conference), Mrs. Rose Gonteski, Mr. Paul Hamlin, Mr. Eric Hoffman, Mr. Phil Jenkins, Mrs. Marisa Karamanoogian, Mr. Harry Litwack, and Mrs. Cynthia Wagstaff.

Also present were Mr. Joseph Mersinger, Superintendent/Principal; Mrs. Joanne D'Angelo, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Ms. Jennifer Mack, Principal; Mr. Cameron Jenkins, Riverside High School Representative; two DTEA members; one PTO representative; two township representatives; twenty-four parents and grandparents; and thirty-two students.

The Business Administrator/Board Secretary read the following statement:

PUBLIC NOTICE of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given in the following manner: Posting written notice on the official bulletin boards of the M. Joan Pearson School, the Walnut Street School, and the Board of Education Office on April 1, 2015; by advertising in the Burlington County Times and the Courier Post on January 16, 2015 and by sending a notice on April 1, 2015; and by filing written notice with the Clerk of Delanco Township on April 1, 2015.

Approval of Minutes of March 11, 2015 Regular and Executive Session Meetings

**Motion: Mrs. Wagstaff Second: Mr. Adams Vote: 9 ayes, 0 nays**

Acceptance of the Reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer for February 2015, which are in agreement:

**Motion: Mr. Adams Second: Mrs. Karamanoogian Vote: 9 ayes, 0 nays**

### **Recognition of Guests**

### **Liaison Reports**

### **Riverside High School Student Representative Report**

Mr. Cameron Jenkins reported the following: On March 7th, RHS Student Government hosted their annual charity marathon and raised \$700 for Christine's Hope for Kids; On March 14th, the NHS and friends volunteered for Special Olympics at Laurel Lanes; on March 19th, the Relay for Life team held a bake sale and raised \$60 toward their team fundraising goal of \$1,000; on March 28th, the NHS organized their second annual scrapbooking event and raised \$800 for scholarships and service projects; and the NHS is looking for blood donors to participate in their drive on May 20th.

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## Delanco PTO Report – Mrs. Ruth Esposito

PTO President, Mrs. Ruth Esposito expressed appreciation for support of the Bingo night, the spring “Mixed Bags” fundraiser, the skating party, and the spring musical. She announced that yearbooks will be available for \$17 and Spirit Wear is still available. Mrs. Esposito highlighted the following coming events: the Trenton Thunder game on 4/21/15; a Chikfila Spirit Night on 4/29/15; and the Mother’s Day flower sale on 5/8/15. She also reported that the current balance of PTO accounts is \$13,787.59.

## Students of the Month

Ms. Mack and Mr. Mersinger recognized students of the month by presenting medals and certificates to the students in attendance.

After the presentations, a break in the meeting took place from 7:59 p.m. to 8:03 p.m. while most of the audience departed leaving two DTEA members, one PTO representative, two township representatives and four residents.

## Superintendent’s Report – Mr. Mersinger

1. A motion was requested to approve the following reports:

- A. District Calendar for 2015-2016 as attached
- B. HIB Report for March 2015 as listed on the Supplemental Agenda
- C. Fire and Emergency Drills have been conducted as follows:

	Fire	Emergency
Pearson	3/12/15	3/31/15 Non-fire evacuation
Walnut	3/16/15	3/17/15 Non-fire evacuation

**Motion: Mr. Hamlin Second: Mr. Hoffman Vote: 9 ayes, 0 nays**

## Pupil Welfare Report

Mr. Mersinger reported that enrollment as of March 31, 2015 at the M. Joan Pearson School was 265 and at the Walnut Street School was 120. Suspensions for the month of March were listed on the supplement. Mr. Mersinger congratulated the baseball team on their win today.

## Special Education Report

- A. Classifications and Placements for the month were listed on supplement
- B. Be it resolved that, the Delanco Township Board of Education does not require the Garfield Park Academy to apply for and receive funding from the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) for the 2015-2016 school year.

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Be it resolved that, the Delanco Township Board of Education does not require the Garfield Park Academy to charge students for reduced and/or paid meals for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Motion: Mr. Hoffman    Second: Mr. Adams    Vote: 9 ayes, 0 nays**

### **Curriculum Committee Report – Mrs. Wagstaff**

Mrs. Wagstaff reported teachers are working now to write new math and technology curriculum, and that professional development activities for the 100 Book Challenge, Close Reading, ELA Strategies aligned to the Common Core State Standards, Go Math and STAR Data Team will continue during the last marking period.

### **Finance Report – Mr. Adams**

The committee chairperson made a motion to approve the following:

- A. Necessary line item transfers for March 2015
- B. Monthly line account certification for March 2015
- C. Payment of bills in the amount of \$292,271.43 and \$20,804.48; handwritten checks #131604-131609 in the amount of \$2,963.75; and electronic funds transfers in the amount of \$443,406.05 and \$55,919
- D. Submission of NCLB Amendment # 2 - (handled as a separate motion - see below)
- E. Increase in hourly rate payable to Parker McCay, P.A. for school solicitor legal services as of July 1, 2015 from \$160 per hour to \$170 per hour
- F. Increase in technology shared service agreement with Burlington Township Board of Education to provide one additional technician FTE for the period of 7/1/15 through 9/30/15 and then to provide an additional .5 technician FTE for the period 10/1/15 through 6/30/16 at an estimated additional cost of \$52,392
- G. Acknowledge donation of Olympian 45 KW natural gas powered emergency generator from North Hanover Board of Education

**Motion: Mr. Adams    Second: Mr. Bryski    Vote: 9 ayes, 0 nays**

- H. Submission of NCLB Amendment #2 - Explanation:

As per letter from Susan Martz, Assistant Commissioner, dated October 21, 2014:

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*Districts receiving Title I funds must revise their FY2015 Title I application to address missed targets as priority problems and align the use of Title I funds accordingly.*

At the February 2015 BOE meeting the 2014-15 Targets Action Plans for Pearson and Walnut Street Middle School were approved to address the missed targets and this allows us to move forward by revising the FY2015 Title I application.

The following information was added to the FY2015 Title I application:

### **NJASK 2014 ELA Results**

Pearson 2014 NJ ASK ELA Results -  
52.7% Total Population proficient - Target 66.3% - Target not achieved  
Pearson 2014 NJ ASK ELA Results -  
50% White proficient - Target 66.1% - Target not achieved

### **NJASK 2014 Math Results**

Pearson 2014 Math NJ ASK Results  
Total Population - 71.3% proficient - Target 79.9% - Target not achieved  
Walnut Street Middle School 2014 Math NJ ASK Results -  
57.4% proficient - Target 68.3% - Target not achieved

Title I funds were already being used to address the needs of these populations and did not need to be revised.

**Motion: Mr. Adams**

**Second: Mr. Bryski**

**Vote: 9 ayes, 0 nays**

### **Treasurer of School Moneys position -**

In response to a RICE notice, the current treasurer, Mr. Bob Hudnell requested that the discussion take place in public session.

Mr. Adams stated that effective July 2, 2010, Public Law 2010, chapter 39 made the treasurer position optional for school districts. As a cost saving measure, the Budget and Finance Committee would like the Board to consider eliminating the position for the 2015-16 school year.

The public was then invited to comment.

Ms. Kate Fitzpatrick spoke in support of the good work the current treasurer does for the Township of Delanco.

Mr. Joseph Miller cautioned the Board about maintaining financial security.

Mrs. Ruth Esposito commented that she finds value in checks and balances.

Mr. Bob Hudnell noted that he was aware of the legislative change and was

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anticipating the Board's inclination to eliminate the position.

No action was taken.

### **Lunchroom Report – Mr. Adams**

The Finance committee chairman made a motion to approve the following:

1. Accept Nutri-Serve's monthly report for February 2015
2. Ratify payment of bills in the amount of \$18,485.52 for checks #2039-2052

**Motion: Mr. Adams    Second: Mr. Hamlin    Vote: 9 ayes, 0 nays**

### **Riverside Liaison Report – Mr. Jenkins**

Mr. Jenkins reported that the high school is looking forward to the Sports Night celebration and that the baseball and softball teams are doing well.

### **Transportation Committee Report – Mr. Hamlin**

No report

### **Buildings and Grounds Committee Report – Mr. Litwack**

Mr. Litwack reported on the current status of maintenance projects.

### **Policy and Personnel Report – Mrs. Karamanoogian**

The committee chairperson made a motion to approve the following:

- A. Master List for substitute calling service
- B. Hiring of substitute teacher, Anne Lavergne
- C. Hiring of substitute custodians, Michael Allen (pending criminal history review) and Paul Minimi
- D. Accept request for paid medical leave of absence from Linda Homan for the period of December 8, 2014 through June 15, 2015
- E. Accept request for retirement from Linda Homan, with regret as of June 30, 2015
- F. Accept resignation of Paul Minimi from the position of 180 day custodian as of March 27, 2015
- G. Approval of Coach Volunteer, Michael Rose pending approval (pending criminal history review)

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- H. Hiring of Robert Hozier as .75 FTE - 180 day custodian as of April 16, 2015 at rate according to DTEA salary guide
- I. Hiring of Danielle Arangio as ExCare worker as of March 24, 2015 at the rate of \$10 per hour

**Motion: Mrs. Karamanoogian      Second: Adams      Roll Call Vote: 9 ayes, 0 nays**

- J. Accept resignation of Jennifer Mack from the position of principal as of June 30, 2015 - See action taken after Executive Session

### **Old Business**

Mr. Mersinger reported that he has been in touch with N.J. School Boards regarding committee structure and is still exploring the Board's options.

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution regarding Pension and Health Benefits Reform**

WHEREAS, the health of New Jersey's public employee retirement systems affects the state's economy and its citizens' quality of life, and impacts critical functions, ranging from the state's ability to borrow to finance public works projects to its annual budget including state aid to education and, consequently, the operation of the public schools; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Pension and Health Benefits Study Commission, appointed by Governor Chris Christie in 2014, has issued its final report, "A Roadmap to Resolution," which proposes monumental changes in how public employee benefits, particularly the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP), are financed and administered; and

WHEREAS, the Delanco Board of Education believes that reform must balance the health of the state's retiree benefits programs with local school boards' responsibility to provide sound educational programming; and

WHEREAS, TPAF benefits are established by the state and not through local school board action; and

WHEREAS, post-retirement medical benefits are provided to TPAF retirees through state legislation, not local school board action; and

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WHEREAS, the Delanco Board of Education believes that the TPAF and any new retirement program for certificated school district staff must be funded by the state government; and

WHEREAS, the Delanco Board of Education believes that transferring payment of the employer's contribution to the teacher retirement plan and post-retirement medical benefits from the state to local school districts would have a detrimental impact on the resources necessary to maintain educational programming; and

WHEREAS, to restore solvency to, and avert future default of, the state's retirement programs, the pension and benefits reform act of 2011 (P.L. 2011, c.78) includes a schedule of annual state payments designed to close the deficit of the plans that serve school district employees; and

WHEREAS, medical benefits for retired school employees, which will total over \$1 billion in 2015-2016, are a major cost-driver in the state budget; and

WHEREAS, the Delanco Board of Education supports the current statutorily required employee contributions toward health benefits, which reflect current practice in the private sector and in public employment in other states, and have provided significant financial relief for local school districts, thereby enabling them to direct resources toward educational programming, including teacher employment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delanco Board of Education urges the state Legislature and Governor to ensure that the employers' cost for teacher pensions and post-retirement medical benefits—financial obligations created by the state—are not transferred to local school districts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that to provide local school districts and local property taxpayers with financial relief, the Legislature should amend P.L. 2011, c.78 to make the current employee contributions toward health coverage a permanent requirement and not a subject of labor negotiations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that to provide further control over the cost of health benefits, the Legislature should give local boards of education unilateral authority to enroll in the School Employee Health Benefits Program if the board determines that such action would generate financial savings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Delanco Board of Education supports the goal of reducing the overall costs of public employee health and retirement benefits and urges the state Legislature and Governor to take a studied and comprehensive approach that will ensure the long-term solvency of the state's public employee retirement programs without unduly burdening local school district budgets and endangering educational programming; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Chris Christie, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto; and the seventh Legislative District's

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representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

**Motion: Mrs. Karamanoogian    Second: Mrs. Wagstaff    Vote: 9 ayes, 0 nays**

### Visitors

Ms. Kate Fitzpatrick thanked the school district for supporting the Delanco Women's Civic Club's Trivia Night and announced that the Township will be introducing the municipal budget soon.

### Executive Session

At 8:40 p.m. Mr. Jenkins read the following statement:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a public body to go into executive session during a public meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Delanco School District has deemed it necessary to go into executive session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the public, and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Board of Education will reconvene at the conclusion of executive session at approximately 9:00 p.m. this evening

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved, That the Board of Education of the Delanco School District will go into executive session for the following reason as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

To discuss personnel issues

**Motion: Mr. Adams    Second: Mrs. Wagstaff    Vote: 9 ayes, 0 nays**

The Board returned to public session at 9:30 p.m.

### Policy and Personnel Report – Mrs. Karamanoogian (continued)

The committee chairperson made a motion to approve:

J. Accept resignation of Jennifer Mack from the position of principal as of  
June 30, 2015

**Motion: Mrs. Karamanoogian    Second: Adams    Roll Call Vote: 8 ayes, 0 nays  
1 abstention - Mr. Litwack**

### Adjournment



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On a motion by Mr. Jenkins seconded by Mrs. Karamanoogian and carried by unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne P. D'Angelo  
Board Secretary