

VERNON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION

October 13, 2011

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE 20

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board President on October 13, 2011 at the Board of Education Office, 539 Route 515, Vernon, NJ.

The roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mrs. Auberger, Mr. Castellana, Mr. DeYoung, Mr. Gilson, Mr. Hughes, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Sparta, Mr. Zweier. Ms. Parrott was absent. Also present were Dr. Alfieri, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Linkenheimer, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Kepnes, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. Raymond Sarinelli, Nisivoccia & Co, LLP, and Mr. Paul Breda, NJSBA.

The following statement was read by Mr. Kepnes.

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of 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 the Act, Vernon Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published and adequate notice has been provided.

Presentations:

1. Self-Evaluations – Paul Breda, NJSBA – Results were compiled and presented for review.
2. Audit Presentation – Nisivoccia & Co, LLP – Ray Sarinelli gave a brief review of the audit.

Douglas Castellana – Social Networking Policy discussion

Mr. Castellana suggested that the Policy be pulled for one month and analyzed/revised by a committee. Clarification of the policy is needed. The word “appropriate” is too vague. It was also suggested that the policy not be pulled. Even though there was agreement that the policy does need to be revised, it was decided that the policy will stay in place while under review.

Public Participation – Limited to items on the agenda

- Sara Smith, a student, expressed concern regarding the Disney trip and would like it to continue.
- Ema DeLuca, a student, expressed concern regarding continuation of DECA and softball trips. Specifically, the Disney spring training trip.
- John Doyle, Vernon resident and parent, expressed concern about the loss of field trips; overnight trips, for co-curricular and athletics.
- Mike Smith, Vernon resident and parent, asked why the Board is considering cancelling various trips.
- Dr. Alfieri stated that although the finances are a concern, more importantly is the loss of classroom time.
- Mr. DeYoung expressed that his desire would be that there be as much public concern regarding academic programs as there is for athletics.
- Dr. Alfieri expressed concern that as a district, Vernon is failing academically when measured by state standards.

- Steve Carlson, teacher and coach, commended the students for their attendance records.

The Public session ended at 8:25 p.m. There was a five minute recess.

Dr. Alfieri (Superintendent)

1. HIB Update – information will be disseminated
2. Overnight field trips

Ms. Linkenheimer (Assistant Superintendent)

1. Personnel Report
2. Curriculum Update
3. Fishing Club Stipend - Concern was expressed regarding the cost/stipend/transportation. No Board Members were opposed to matching the \$1,000 donation to create a stipend
4. Credits for graduation
5. Class Size Reports
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved professional development travel that complies with the provisions of the School Ethics Act (SEA) N.J.S.A. 18A:12 24 and 12-24.1 (Attachment WS-1) Motion by Mr. DeYoung, seconded by Mr. Zweier and carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Kepnes (Business Administrator/Board Secretary)

1. Recommendations to be approved at Public Meeting:
 - M1
 - Comprehensive Maintenance Plan
 - Submission of the IDEA grant
 - Acceptance of the Audit and Approval of the Corrective Action Plan
 - Challenge Course Technical Services Contract with Project Adventure
2. Discussion Item: CST – Lease with township
3. Parent Reimbursement for travel related to School Programs
4. Change of Work Session Meeting date from 11/10 to 11/3
5. Other
 - Hockey is exempted from activity fee.
 - Discussion on becoming a member of the National School Board Association

Discussion took place regarding the concern of individual Board Members attending a meeting of the Historical Society and representing the Board. Mr. Sparta resigned and left the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Public Participation – For items on the agenda and other business

None heard.

The Board entered closed session at 10:12 p.m. on a motion by Mr. DeYoung, seconded by Mr. Zweier and carried on a unanimous voice vote.

The Board entered open session at 10:16 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Zweier, seconded by Mr. Gilson and carried on a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Zweier, seconded by Mr. DeYoung and carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Board President or Delegate

Board Secretary or Delegate

Superintendent or Delegate