

VERNON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORK SESSION

December 8, 2011

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE 1

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Board President on December 8, 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, Ms. Parrott, Mr. Sparta and Mr. Zweier. Also present were Dr. Alfieri, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Linkenheimer, Assistant Superintendent, and Mr. Kepnes, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

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.

Board Docs Training – Dawn Adams

One hour was spent reviewing the Board Docs website and functions.

Home Schooled Students and Interscholastic Athletics – William Edelman ATTACHMENT WS-1

Home schooling was discussed and a summary of the district's requirements was provided.

A straw poll was taken and the result was to move forward with regard to allowing homeschooled students to participate in athletics.

**Public Participation – Limited to items on the agenda**

Mr. McClachrie wished the Board a Merry Christmas.

**Mr. Castellana (Board President)**

1. The Mayor has requested that the Board allow the council to be added to the Agenda for the December meeting.
2. Overnight Field Trips

Discussion took place regarding a teacher's request to take students to Costa Rica. Concern was expressed since the correct process was not followed.

3. Pay to Play

Concern was expressed regarding the pay-to-play process in its first year. Discussion took place regarding the comparison of revenue that was collected from prior years' gate receipts versus what was collected this year from pay-to-play policy.

Mrs. Auberger distributed new legislation that was reviewed at a recent Sussex County School Boards Association Meeting.

**Dr. Alfieri (Superintendent)**

1. Test scores with new chart

There was a brief discussion on the chart and scores.

2. Administrative Review Update

Guidance was provided by the Board.

3. Middle School Task Force

Transitioning the students was discussed including the house/team concept. This would likely improve student achievement. The discussion lasted approximately twenty minutes.

**Ms. Linkenheimer (Assistant Superintendent)**

1. Personnel Report

The report was discussed.

2. High School Program of Study

Ms. Linkenheimer distributed the Program of Study via e-mail and it was reviewed briefly at the work session.

3. Syracuse University Courses

Ms. Linkenheimer explained how we would like to broaden our offerings.

4. LHMS Photography/Video Club

This activity was proposed, including a stipend.

5. GMMS 6<sup>th</sup> period for Language Arts

6. Recommendation:

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-2

Motion by Mrs. Auberger, seconded by Mr. McGowan and carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Mr. Kepnes (Business Administrator/Board Secretary)**

1. Recommendations for Public Meeting:
  - a. Amend budget due to EdJobs Fund

- b. Approve paying aides with EdJobs funds
- c. Approve Article 16 – Annual Review and Revisions of the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials
- d. Contour Data contract

Mr. Kepnes briefly discussed his items to be approved at the upcoming Public Meeting.

2. GMMS generator update

Mr. Kepnes gave the Board an update on the generator for Glen Meadow. The Board requested that the balance of the project be paid out of capital reserve.

3. NORESKO Project Financing Bid opening on December 13.

**Public Participation – For items on the agenda and other business**

Mr. McClachrie inquired about the difference in cost between varying permits – back-up generator versus peak shaving.

He also discussed stipend costs.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board entered Closed Session at 9:57 p.m. for a discussion on a legal matter. Motion by Mrs. Auberger, seconded by Mr. Zweier and carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board entered Open Session at 10:07 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Parrott, seconded by Mr. DeYoung and carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board indemnified John B. Alfieri, Ed.D., Superintendent; Barbara Linkenheimer, Assistant Superintendent; Gail Englert, Central Office Secretary; Timothy Dunnigan, High School Principal; Rosemary Gebhardt, Glen Meadow Principal; and Stewart Stumper, Ed.D., Lounsberry Hollow Principal for any potential punitive damages resulting from the lawsuit: Dr. John T. Whiting vs. Vernon Township School District, et.al.

Motion by Mr. Castellana, seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Parrott, seconded by Mr. DeYoung and carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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Board President or Delegate

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Board Secretary or Delegate

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Superintendent or Delegate