

VERNON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORK SESSION MINUTES

July 21, 2011

Public In Attendance 6

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board President on July 21, 2011 at the Board of Education Office, 539 Route 515, Vernon, NJ. The roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mr. Castellana, Mr. Gilson, Mr. Hughes, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Sparta, Mr. Zweier. Mrs. Auberger arrived at 7:04 p.m. Mr. DeYoung and Ms. Parrott were absent. Also present were Dr. Alfieri, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Linkenheimer, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Kepnes, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, 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.

There was a discussion on the possible change of the August Board Meeting from 8/18 to 8/25. All Board Members are in support. This change will be advertised.

**Dr. Alfieri (Superintendent)**

Dr. Alfieri discussed the following:

1. Two-hour delayed opening structure for SY 11-12 (Attachment A)
2. Technology Department redesign recommendation (Attachment B)

Mr. Zweier provided a summary of the recent Technology Committee Meeting. Technology updates include laptop carts, Smart Boards, website updates, phone system, web-base software, video camera updates and new installations via grant funds.

3. Primary and elementary enrollment issues (Attachment C)

Mr. Sparta left the meeting during the discussion of Rolling Hills enrollment. Dr. Alfieri and Ms. Linkenheimer summarized the recommendation for additional sections in the primary level.

4. Guidance/Power School
5. Communication/Retreat/Planning Sessions
6. Establishing Communication – a relationship with new Vernon Township Government

Mr. Castellana asked for a recess of the Work Session Meeting to open the Public Meeting. Motion by Mr. Sparta, seconded by Mr. Zweier and carried on a unanimous voice vote.

At 8:02 p.m. the Work Session Meeting was re-opened on a motion by Mr. Sparta, seconded by Mr. Zweier and carried on a unanimous voice vote.

7. Increased State Aid

Mr. Kepnes and Dr. Alfieri discussed the increased State Aid that Vernon would be getting and explained that because of time constraints we were not able to meet the deadline to apply this revenue to tax relief. Discussion will continue on the options available.

8. Fishing Club

Mr. Sparta and other Board Members expressed their support of establishing this activity for Vernon.

**Ms. Linkenheimer (Assistant Superintendent)**

1. Policy and Regulation 2431.4 – Prevention & Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries

Ms. Linkenheimer explained that this state mandated policy will be placed in tonight’s Public Meeting Agenda for first reading.

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

1. Mr. Kepnes explained the status of Vernon’s Dog Park and answered questions regarding location. The County has now approved the plan and they are moving forward.

Mr. Kepnes also talked about the possible sale of the Child Study Team Building. There was discussion about the value of the building and that there haven’t been any commercial sales in Vernon during the last year. Mr. Sparta mentioned that the building would be hooked up to sewers and is in the Town Center on a highway and we should try to sell the building. Mr. Kepnes said it would be by auction or bid process. The other buildings in the district would be able to house the Child Study Team employees. Savings would also be realized because expenses for upkeep, heat, electricity, etc. would be eliminated. Mr. Kepnes estimated that this would be \$10,000 per year. This subject will be discussed further.

2. Mr. Kepnes explained that there are two agreements recommended for the Public Meeting: The Wireless Networking-Phase II Bid and the Water Management, Inc. Agreement for wastewater management.

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

Mrs. Rosa from Glenwood expressed disappointment about the decision to try to have the High School Commencement outdoors. She talked about her ruined camera and the injuries that occurred that night. Dr. Alfieri thanked her for her comments and stressed that we have learned from this experience and in the future will err to the side of caution. He explained that there were a few people involved in the decision and it was really believed that the skies would clear. Mr. Castellana also thanked Mrs. Rosa for coming and expressing her opinion.

Mr. Pirringer requested that a plan be started to assist students. He also talked about the perception that Vernon’s students are not going to top-notch schools and enter competitions with the idea that they haven’t got a chance to win, but are going for the experience. He mentioned Math Counts and the Decathlon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Sparta, seconded by Mrs. Auburger 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