

WORK MEETING
OF THE
HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 8, 2007

The Board of Education of Hillsborough Township in the county of Somerset, convened in public session on Monday, October 8, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Auten Road Intermediate School in the School District.

In accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the Board's annual meeting notice. This notice was also provided to the Hillsborough Beacon, Somerset Messenger Gazette, and Courier News newspapers on October 4, 2007. The notice is also posted in the Board of Education office and a copy has been sent to the Township Clerk and Township Public Library.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Donnadio, Gregory Gillette, Neil Hudes, Steven Paget, Marc J. Rosenberg, and Wolfgang Schneider

Frank A. Blandino arrived at 8:08 p.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT: David T. Lin

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Edward Forsthoffer, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. James Dwyer, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Jeffrey R. Scott, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Board Recognition

President Hudes opened the meeting by recognizing Mr. Jeffrey Scott as the districts interim school business administrator, replacing Mr. Venanzi, until a permanent replacement is found.

Dr. Forsthoffer introduced Mr. Michael Volpe, Hillsborough Elementary School principal, who in turn recognized the following members of his staff for their efforts in securing a \$1,000 Character Education Grant that was offered by the New Jersey Department of Education in cooperation with Rutgers University:

- Henry Goodhue
- Stephanie Moore
- Susan Ditmar
- Jerrie Hoover
- Jennifer Hopson
- Joyce Bordonaro

All elementary schools in the state were eligible to apply for this grant; however, only 5 schools were selected as recipients, Hillsborough Elementary being one of them. Hillsborough Elementary School will work in partnership with Zane North Elementary School, the only nationally accredited character education school located in Collingswood, New Jersey, in an effort to foster school change through character education.

Dr. Forsthoffer and Mr. Donnadio thanked Mr. Volpe and his staff for a job well done.

Public Input on the 2008-09 Budget

None

Board Committee Reports

Communications Committee

Mr. Rosenberg, communications committee chairperson, noted that the committee met on October 3 along with Dr. Forsthoffer and Mrs. Jan Frasher, public information officer. Items discussed included:

- Instant Alert
- Briefing on the Website and recent updates/additions
- Issue of public communication/contact with members of the board of education

Municipal Alliance

Mr. Gillette, liaison to the Municipal Alliance, stated that the district's annual "Red Ribbon Week" will be October 23-31. The theme for this year is "Dream It, Be It, Drug Free". The week will kick off with the 5th annual Life Skills' Soc-Hop dance to be held at Auten Road Intermediate School on October 19 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Finance Committee

Mr. Gillette, finance committee chairperson, stated that the committee has not met since the last meeting but is scheduled to meet on October 15 with the district auditor to discuss the findings of the 2006 fiscal year Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Special Projects

Mr. Donnadio, special projects committee chairperson, reported that the committee had not met since the last meeting but wanted to remind the board that there will be a special meeting held on November 1 that is open to the public to discuss the district goals and objectives. This meeting will be facilitated by Ms. Gwen Thorton of the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Negotiations Committee

Mr. Paget, negotiations committee chairperson, reported that the committee met on October 5 and discussed issues and parameters for the upcoming negotiations with the Hillsborough Education Association. They hope to finalize the tentative parameters by October 15 once more data becomes available. In November they expect to meet with all parties involved in negotiations to present their proposal.

Personnel Committee

Mr. Paget, personnel committee member, presented the committee report on behalf of Mr. Lin, personnel committee chairperson. Mr. Paget stated that the committee met on October 5 and discussed current vacancies. He noted that there is a search committee presently interviewing candidates for the principal position at Woods Road Elementary school and that interviews will be shortly underway for the business administrator and assistant to the business administrator. All teaching positions have been filled in the district. The director of special services and supervisor of special services positions have been filled and are on this evening's agenda for approval.

Curriculum Committee

Mr. Schneider, curriculum committee chairperson, stated that the committee had not met since the last meeting. Mr. Schneider commented briefly on an article that was in the October 5 edition of the Courier News regarding single gender classes which has been discussed previously by the board. He noted that the article stated that South Carolina leads the nation in single gender classes with about 70 schools participating out of 363 nationwide. Mr. Schneider indicated that he would like to leave this on the table for future discussion.

Mr. Blandino arrived at 8:08 p.m.

Facilities Committee

Mr. Blandino, facilities committee chairperson, reported that the committee met on October 4 and discussed the following items:

- Aramark Quarterly Metrics Report
- Update on the time frame for bidding regarding facilities management services
- Eagle Scout projects at Hillsborough High School and Woods Road School
- Request from a youth baseball team to use fields at Sunnymead School

Time was allowed for questions and comments from the board and public on the committee reports.

The board discussed at length the issue of email addresses being listed on the district website for individual board members vs. a

single address that addresses the entire board. It was decided by the board to wait on a decision of which way to go until Mr. Rosenberg has the opportunity to contact the New Jersey School Boards Association for an opinion. The board will revisit the issue at the October 15 regular meeting.

Mr. Rosenberg questioned the cost of putting together the Aramark Quarterly Metrics Report due to the color printing and binding and whether such an elaborate report was necessary.

Mr. Forsthoffer commented that he believed that Aramark was responsible for the cost; however, he would look into it.

Review of September Board Meeting Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes of the executive session and public work meeting held on September 10, 2007 and the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 17, 2007. There were no changes made to these minutes and the board will act on the approval of these minutes at the October 15 regular meeting.

Other Business from the Public

Mrs. Barbara Parker, Hillsborough Education Association president, expressed her opinion that in this time of difficulty in school budgets passing, that perception of accessibility goes a long way and that it is her desire to see individual email addresses listed on the district website. She also expressed her concern in outsourcing custodial services due to its impact fiscally and for potential security reasons.

President Hudes reminded Mrs. Parker that we currently outsource the facilities management services through Aramark and that it is not the intention of the board to look into outsourcing the custodial staff.

President Hudes pointed out various articles that were published in the NJSBA Leadership magazine related to special education funding and legislation. He recommended that the articles/magazine be available to the public at the board office for anyone interested in reviewing it.

Mr. Rosenberg wanted to remind everyone that on Saturday, October 13, the 14th Annual Band Festival will take place at Hillsborough High School beginning at 5:00 p.m. and encouraged all to attend.

Action Agenda

Public Comments

None

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Paget and seconded by Mr. Blandino that the board of education approve the personnel agenda as follows:

Appointments

Rescind the approval of the resignation of Leonore Johnston, supervisor of special services, district, and approve her appointment as director of special services, district, effective September 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

SALARY: \$125,000

PRO-RATED

Jeffrey Scott, interim business administrator/board secretary, effective October 4, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

SALARY: \$600 per day

Change in Contract

Donna Landon, from learning disability teacher-consultant, Hillsborough Middle School, to supervisor of special services (12 months), district, effective October 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

SALARY: \$90,000 (\$7,500 per month)

PRO-RATED

Stipend

A stipend of \$150 per month to Susan Chrebet, 12-month secretary, business office, to work as purchasing assistant, business office, effective October 10, 2007 until a purchasing assistant is hired.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Paget and seconded by Mr. Blandino to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Upon call of the question, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Scott
Interim School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary