

WORK/SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
October 11, 2010

The Board of Education of Hillsborough Township in the county of Somerset, convened in public session on Monday, October 11, 2010 at 6:30 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 and Courier News newspapers on October 7, 2010. 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: Gregory Gillette, Judith C. Haas, Thomas Kinst, Steven D. Paget, Marc J. Rosenberg, and Wolfgang Schneider

Thuy Anh Le and Barbara Sargent arrived at 6:35 p.m.  
Neil Hudes arrived at 6:55 p.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Scott Rocco, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Lisa M. Antunes, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Aiman Mahmoud, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mr. Gerald Eckert, Assistant School Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary

Executive Session

A motion was made by Dr. Rosenberg and seconded by Mr. Gillette that the board adopt a resolution to go into executive session at 6:37 p.m.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 provides that a public body may exclude the public from that portion of a meeting of which the public body discusses certain matters for which confidentiality is required as permitted in Section 7B of the act.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Township of Hillsborough in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The following matters to be discussed are a student settlement agreement, an employment contract of an employee, and negotiations with the Hillsborough Education Association.
2. The matters discussed in executive session shall be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

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

Mr. Hudes arrived at 6:55 p.m.

The board reconvened in public session at 7:42 p.m.

Update on Superintendent Search

Dr. Sargent gave a brief presentation detailing the process that the board has followed during the search for a new superintendent which included the following:

- Advertising position
- On-line survey for community input
- 33 candidates for position
- 8 candidates interviewed
- 3 finalists selected for second interview
- 1 selected for reference check and site visit
- Candidate visit of Hillsborough on October 4, 2010

Dr. Sargent then said that the board is meeting its goal of appointing a new superintendent by October 11, 2010.

She then introduced Dr. Jordan Schiff as the new Superintendent of the Hillsborough Township Public Schools pending board approval later this evening.

Dr. Sargent stated that Dr. Schiff is currently the superintendent of the Readington Township School district and that his strengths include student achievement, analyzing data to frame decisions, supporting technology implementation, and establishing a strong administrative team.

Dr. Paget thanked Mr. Mahmoud who acted as administrative liaison for the board. He also thanked Dr. Sargent, Mr. Rosenberg, and Mr. Hudes for their efforts in completing this process.

Action Agenda

Public Input

None

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

No action items

PERSONNEL

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

Appointment of Superintendent of Schools

Approve the resolution as listed on Schedule II-A as it relates to the appointment of Dr. Jordan Schiff, as superintendent of schools, effective on or about January 1, 2011 and ending on July 1, 2014.

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

FINANCE

A motion was made by Mr. Gillette and seconded by Mr. Hudes that the board of education approve the finance agenda as follows:

Resolution for Repair of High School Transformer

Approve the resolution as submitted on Schedule III-A for the repair of the Hillsborough High School transformer unit.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE

A motion was made by Dr. Rosenberg and seconded by Mr. Gillette that board of education approve the administrative agenda as follows:

Settlement Agreement

Approve the resolution as submitted on Schedule IV-A regarding a settlement agreement pertaining to WD.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with eight members voting in favor and Mr. Hudes abstaining.

Dr. Paget stated that he is pleased that Dr. Schiff has agreed to lead the Hillsborough Township School District.

There was a short break at 7:58 p.m. to congratulate Dr. Schiff

The meeting resumed at 8:15 p.m. with Dr. Paget inviting Dr. Schiff to speak to the board and the community.

Dr. Schiff spoke briefly thanking the board for selecting him as the new superintendent. He stated that he found the staff to be very welcoming and that he was looking forward to a career in Hillsborough. Dr. Schiff then noted that his release date from Readington is January 10, 2011 and he looks forward to starting.

Board Committee Reports

Facilities Committee

Ms. Le, facilities committee chairperson, stated that the committee met on September 29, 2010 discussed the following items:

- Review of district transportation and property maps
- Preliminary enrollment projections
- Met with architect of record to discuss a baseline of facilities
- Potential income stream from Viridian Energy and asked the policy committee to check if this could be done.

Ms. Le then thanked Mr. Frusco for quickly fixing the lighting at the high school football stadium avoiding the cancellation of the first home game of the season.

Finance Committee

Mr. Gillette, finance committee chairperson, stated that the finance committee has not met, but that the preliminary data for the 2009-10 audit shows that there will be no findings or recommendations. He then stated that the finance committee will be meeting in the next few weeks to go over the audit.

Curriculum Committee

Mr. Schneider, curriculum committee chairperson, stated that the committee met on October 7, 2010 and discussed the following items:

- Assessment results that Dr. Antunes will present later tonight.
- Increasing AP offerings at the high school.
- The State curriculum plan.
- The New Jersey Biology competency test.

Mr. Schneider added that social studies supervisor, Matt Mingle, has applied for a program through the Gilder Institute of American History and was one of ten New Jersey schools to apply.

Policy Committee

Dr. Rosenberg, policy committee chairperson, stated that the policy committee met last week and discussed a policy on how and when board members can request a legal opinion. He stated that this policy will be discussed further in committee. Dr. Rosenberg then stated that the committee also discussed a policy on what the board's obligation is when it receives anonymous correspondence.

Dr. Rosenberg noted that the following polices will be on the agenda next week for first reading:

- Hillsborough Township Public Schools Network
- Vandalism, Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Reimbursement policy for federal and grant expenditures
- Student Activity Fund

#### Special Projects Committee

Mr. Kinst, special projects committee chairperson, stated that the special projects committee met and noted that there has been a bill introduced that would ban student activity fees. He stated that the committee also discussed courtesy busing and potential savings by redefining some hazardous routes. The committee also discussed the concept of a “walking bus” which could be done on a volunteer basis.

Mr. Kinst then stated that the committee has asked the finance committee to meet to discuss courtesy busing and the student activity fee.

#### Communications Committee

Mrs. Haas, communications committee chairperson, stated that the communications committee met on October 6, 2010 and discussed the Community Partnership Network which was having its initial meeting later that same night. Mrs. Haas stated that the turnout for that first meeting was excellent and invited more people to join.

Mrs. Haas stated that other items discussed were the calendar of curriculum presentations at future board meetings and the announcement of the new superintendent.

Mrs. Haas reported that she also attended the Somerset County School Boards Association meeting where the topic was creative solutions in difficult times. Mrs. Haas added that Executive County Superintendent, Trudy Doyle, and Somerset County Freeholder Director, Jack Ciattarelli, spoke about issues in Somerset county and shared services. Mrs. Haas then added that there are two meetings scheduled for building relationships with local municipalities.

#### Negotiations Committee

Mr. Hudes, negotiations committee chairperson, stated that the negotiations committee met about ten days ago and noted that this year is a negotiating year with the Hillsborough Education Association. He stated that he has shared items from this meeting with the board in executive session.

#### Personnel Committee

Dr. Sargent, personnel committee chairperson, stated that the personnel committee met last Friday and discussed two confidential administrative issues and the hiring of a part time ESL instructor.

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

Dr. Rosenberg stated that during the special projects committee meeting, he discovered that the district is responsible for students as soon as they leave their house.

Mr. Hudes asked Ms. Le if the facilities committee is reviewing the district map and transportation as related to the “town center” project.

Ms. Le confirmed that they are.

Mr. Hudes also asked the facilities committee if Viridian is an alternative supplier for electricity and if the district is in a group for energy purchasing.

Mr. Mahmoud stated that the district uses Energy for America and is part of a Demand Response program.

Dr. Paget stated that there are two issues with Viridian Energy. The first is schools’ using Viridian and the second is residents switching to Viridian and the school district gaining revenue from their switch.

#### Review of Minutes

The board reviewed the following minutes:

- September 13, 2010 public and executive session
- September 20, 2010 public and executive session

There were no changes recommended. The board will act on the approval of these minutes at the October 18 regular meeting.

#### Correspondence

None

#### Recognition

Mr. Rocco recognized the Community Partnership Network and thanked Dr. Antunes for her work on this network. Mr. Rocco congratulated the high school band for the recent competition that they hosted at the high school. He also thanked Mr. Frusco for getting the lighting at the football field repaired in time for the football game.

#### New Business

None

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Rocco introduced Dr. Antunes who gave a presentation on a "Framework for Accountability" which detailed the districts assessment results.

There was a brief discussion after Dr. Antunes presentation. The items discussed included:

- Planning for improvement
- Comparisons to similar District Factor Group (DFG)
- State reduced targets
- Cost per pupil of other districts in our DFG
- Reasons for wide ranges between schools

Old Business

None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Gillette and seconded by Dr. Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 p.m.

Upon call of the question, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Aiman Mahmoud  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary