

The Randolph Township Board of Education held a Work Session meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 07:15 p.m. Randolph High School Library, 511 Millbrook Avenue, Randolph, New Jersey.

Board President Tammy MacKay called the meeting to order and read the following statement:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Randolph Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in The Daily Record. It is also posted in all district schools as well as the Randolph Township Municipal Building.

### **Roll Call**

The following Board members were present: Ms. Christine Aulenbach, Mr. Jeffrey Braverman, Mr. Ronald Conti, Ms. Anne Standridge, Dr. Diana Thomas and Ms. Tammy MacKay.

Board members Sheldon Epstein, Alfredo Z. Matos and Colleen Pascale were absent.

The following administrators were present: Dr. David Browne, Superintendent, Miss Jennifer Fano, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Gerald M. Eckert, Board Secretary, Board Counsel Robert McBriar, Esquire was also present.

### **Closed Session – 07:18 p.m.**

Board member Christine Aulenbach made a motion seconded by board member Ronald Conti and carried by roll call vote to adopt the following with an exception:

Board members Sheldon Epstein, Alfredo Z. Matos and Colleen Pascale were absent.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13 that the Board of Education of the Township of Randolph will hold a Closed Session regarding REA Grievance, Personnel, Negotiations, Litigation and matters of Attorney-Client privilege. It is not yet possible to determine when the matters discussed in Closed Session will be made public.

Board member Sheldon Epstein arrived at 07:23 p.m.

Board member Colleen Pascale arrived at 07:42 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 08:12 p.m.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Review of Board Minutes**

- Closed Executive Session 03-09-15(FFT), 03-10-15, 03-17-15
- Work Session 03-10-15, Business Session 03-17-15
- Special Meeting 03-09-15 (FFT)

### **Correspondence**

- Parental Concern
- Budget

### **President's Report**

Ms. MacKay stated that on April 30<sup>th</sup> we will be presenting our budget to the Township and the district will also be hosting the Morris County School Boards Association meeting.

Ms. MacKay also stated that there will be a discussion on start times tonight.

Ms. Fano then introduced the RMS math department, STEM Supervisor Ms. Anne Vitale who introduced her teachers and presented an update on the Middle School math program.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Browne reported on the possibility of changing to a two tier transportation structure and stated that at a minimum the cost would be an additional \$841,000 if the routes were contracted and would be in excess of \$3 million. He reported that he is not comfortable recommending something that would come at such a cost.

He then reported that he asked Ms. Werge what a three tier system could look like if the elementary schools ended at 03:55 p.m. He then stated what the start times could be in a three tier system. He explained that these all look like a 7 hour day and asked Ms. Fano to explain the current elementary day and what the day would look like with the proposed times.

Ms. MacKay stated that the school schedules are not final so are confidential at this time.

Ms. MacKay asked the Board to direct initial questions to the two tier system. Ms. MacKay asked Dr. Browne to discuss the efficiency of our transportation system.

Dr. Browne stated that we are the 2<sup>nd</sup> rated district in Morris County and the top 10 in the system. He stated a two tier system would be inefficient and put us at the bottom of these lists.

Mr. Conti asked about the transportation study that is proposed.

Dr. Browne stated that it is a good practice to have an outside company to verify.

Mr. Epstein stated that it would be good to share the research that was collected during this process.

Ms. Standridge asked when the Board will be asked to make this decision.

Dr. Browne stated that the sooner we can make the decision, the better.

Ms. MacKay stated that the new option came out of the research in vetting a two tier system. She then asked the other Board members consider if they would be willing to support the increased costs for a two tier system going forward.

Ms. Pascale asked if the three tier change is worth it educationally.

Dr. Browne stated that he does not think the two tier system would be worth it educationally but the three tier system would.

Mr. Epstein stated that he supports the third set of eyes to look at our system that will be on the agenda tonight. He then stated that he cannot stay for the vote but does support it.

Mr. Epstein left at 09:21 p.m.

Ms. MacKay stated that the new option address many of the concerns that families had with the original proposal that had elementary schools ending at 04:15 p.m.

Ms. Pascale stated that she would be concerned for working families for the start time at the elementary schools.

Mr. Matos arrived at 09:26 p.m.

Ms. MacKay directed administration to discuss the new proposed times with the Community School to find out the options that they would be able to provide.

Ms. Aulenbach stated that Fernbrook school has had a program available in the morning that we could look at including in other schools.

Ms. Fano also stated that the principals have asked about running clubs before school.

Ms. Aulenbach then asked about the availability of late bus runs.

Ms. Fano stated that they would be approximately at 04:15 p.m.

Ms. Aulenbach asked about the high school schedule that includes something that happens one day a week.

Ms. MacKay stated that the high school schedule is very different and asked when we can talk about it.

Dr. Browne stated that Ms. Iosso will be at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and would be able to answer some of those questions.

Dr. Browne stated that he will be asking the Board to consider at a future meeting to consider appointing a firm to conduct research for the district on various topics. He stated that it would provide unlimited studies for the course of a year. He stated that the cost would be \$35,000 per year. One of the studies he would ask of them is to report on if full day kindergarten was worth it. He stated that he is in the process of pursuing another quote for comparison sake.

Dr. Browne stated that he was asked to provide PARCC testing data through an OPRA request. He stated that the response is that he provided the opt-out numbers to the firm.

Mr. Braverman asked how we did with PARCC operationally and how we will address the issues in the next round.

Dr. Browne stated that each school is reflecting on their performance and evaluating what they can do differently.

Mr. Braverman stated that there was confusion through the process.

Dr. Browne stated that there needs to be a biology end of course assessment. High school is asking the Board to consider two delayed openings to accommodate this.

### **Public Discussion**

A Randolph resident stated that she thinks the Superintendent is giving viable options. She then stated that we bus many students that live close enough to walk except for the lack of sidewalks.

A resident who is a realtor in town and stated that she does not get the question

from perspective buyers about what time the elementary school starts. She stated that she supports the three tier system that was proposed tonight is an excellent option.

A Randolph resident thanked the Board for moving back start times. He stated that these changes are good for kids.

### **Student Council Representative Report**

### **Committee Reports**

- Personnel
- Finance, Facilities and Transportation – Mr. Matos reported on last night's FFT Committee meeting.
- Education – next month high school benchmarks.
- Policy – met tonight and will have items on agenda next week.
- Ms. MacKay reported on negotiations with REA and Mr. Matos updated on negotiations with RTAA. Ms. MacKay stated that we are starting the process with Teamsters on Friday.

### **Liaison Reports**

Ms. Pascale reported that there was a special education event held last night and stated that it was an excellent program.

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

Dr. Thomas reported that she went to a math honor society meeting last week and reported.

**FINANCE/FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION MOTION 1**

**APRIL 14, 2015**

On behalf of Finance, Facilities and Transportation Committee, Board Vice-President Alfredo Z. Matos made a motion, seconded by Board member Mr. Ronald Conti and carried by a roll call vote to approve Finance, Facilities and Transportation Motion 1 with

an exception:

Board member Sheldon Epstein was absent.

**1. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL BUS CONSULTANTS**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement with School Bus Consultants, a Maryland corporation whose principal place of business is 3168 Braverton St, Suite 280, Edgewater, MD, in the amount of \$10,500.00; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board Secretary is authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board.

**Adjournment**

Board member Anne Standridge made a motion, seconded by Board Vice-President Alfredo Z. Matos and carried by roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 p.m.

The board adjourned the meeting at 10:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gerald M. Eckert  
Board Secretary