

BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

www.blairstownelem.net

October 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER The Blairstown Township Board of Education held this meeting in the School Library on Thursday, October 17, 2019.
Mr. Cook, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

FLAG SALUTE Everyone present was requested to rise and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUNSHINE LAW Mr. Cook read the Notice of Meeting and Mission Statement

MISSION STATEMENT

ROLL CALL The following board members were present: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Inscho, Mr. Karolchyk, Mrs. Krauss, Mrs. McElroy, Mrs. Rolph, Mrs. Shaffer, and Mrs. Sikkes
Absent: None

Tardy: Mrs. Gerhardt arrived at 7:21PM

Also Present: Mr. Saalfield, Superintendent; Mrs. Petty, SBA/Board Secretary;
John Croot, Esquire; and approximately twelve members of the public.

APPROVE REGULAR MINUTES - A motion was made by Mrs. McElroy, seconded by Mrs. Inscho, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted for September 19 and September 28, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Saalfield reported on the following items: MOA meeting, proposed new regulations for water testing, new legislation on mental health, State funding for consolidation and shared services studies, and the upcoming NJSBA workshop.
2. Principal's Report – Dr. Elias was not in attendance to expand upon her report.

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

The Blairstown Township Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest. We ask that you wait to be recognized by the BOE President, and then state your name and address and any group affiliation you may have. All comments must be directed to the BOE President.

In the interest of fairness, we ask that you be brief and limit your comments to no more than five minutes.

The Board always has and will continue to give serious consideration to every issue that comes before it. Nothing that is said by the public is disregarded, and when necessary and appropriate, may be acted upon.

APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORTS - A motion was made by Mrs. Sikkes, seconded by Mrs. McElroy, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to approve the August Board Secretary's reports, in agreement with the Treasurer's Reports, in the amount of \$1,441,857.39, in Total Government Funds; and to certify that as of August 31, 2019, after review of the Secretary and Treasurer's monthly financial reports (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation with N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10(c)4 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the fiscal year.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS - A motion was made by Mrs. Shaffer, seconded by Mrs. Krauss, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to approve payment of the Bills & Claims List for the General Fund in the amount of \$818,240.26, and for the Food Service Fund in the amount of \$15,175.87.

MOTION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mrs. Rolph, seconded by Mrs. Inscho, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to approve the following four Personnel items:

1. Appoint 2019-20 Substitutes – To accept Mr. Saalfield's recommendation to add the names of PattiAnn Parker and Laurie Washburn to the substitute teacher and aide lists for the 2019-20 School Year.
2. Approve Maternity Leave Replacement Teacher – To approve Mrs. Danielle Muessig as Mrs. Hinline's maternity leave replacement teacher, on Master's Step 1, effective November 20, 2019 through March 17, 2020.
3. Appoint Homework Help Teachers – To appoint the attached list of Homework Help teachers at the hourly rate of \$40, per the terms of the BEA contract.
4. Assistant Battle of the Minds – To appoint Mrs. Kovacs for the stipend position of Assistant Battle of the Minds Teacher.
5. Accept Resignation – After Mr. Cook read aloud Mrs. Reade's letter of resignation, a motion was made by Mrs. McElroy, seconded by Mrs. Shaffer, and carried unanimously with regret and deep gratitude to accept Mrs. Reade's resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective December 31, 2019.

B. FINANCE

A motion was made by Mrs. McElroy, seconded by Mrs. Shaffer, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to approve the following three Finance items:

1. Workshops & Mileage Reimbursement – To approve the attached list of workshop and mileage reimbursement requests.
2. Snow Removal Services Contract – To approve JB’s Landscaping for snow removal services at the hourly rate of \$95 per plow, effective October 18, 2019 – May 1, 2020. (One other quote was received, at the same hourly rate, but JB’s is being recommended based upon previous workmanship).
3. Electric Services – To participate with the Educational Services Commission of NJ in seeking bids on a cooperative basis for the purchase of electricity.
4. Technology Services Contract – After Mrs. Krauss asked some questions, a motion was made by Mrs. McElroy, seconded by Mrs. Inscho, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to approve a contract for technology services with Cloud-Com, LLC for a minimum of four hours/day, two days/week October 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 at \$75/hour, pending attorney review.

C. EDUCATIONAL

1. HIB Investigation #19201 - Mr. Saalfield reported on an incident involving a fifth grade student on the bus, which was not found to be a bullying incident.
2. NJSBA Report on Mental Health Services (10/15) - Mr. Saalfield commented on the recent report from NJSBA on Mental Health services.

D. FACILITIES

1. Approve Facilities’ Use Requests – A motion was made by Mrs. Shaffer, seconded by Mrs. McElroy, and carried unanimously to approve the attached list of Facilities’ Use Requests.
2. Edge Hill Road Property Discussion – Mrs. Petty reported that:
 - a) There are no records of ownership in BOE’s Safe Deposit Box
 - b) Ken Bertholf, former BOE President and local historian, has no knowledge of the Board’s ownership of any property on Edge Hill Road
 - c) Town’s tax map lists the Township, not the BOE, as the owner of the property, but the Tax Collector is clarifying with the Tax Assessor, since there seems to be some question of ownership elsewhere within the Township offices.

3. Property Sale – A motion was made by Mrs. Rolph, seconded by Mrs. Inscho, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to adopt the following resolutions regarding the sale of properties owned by the Blairstown Township Board of Education:

WHEREAS, the Blairstown Board of Education (hereinafter the “Board” or the “District”) is the owner of a parcel of vacant land located at 6 Lambert Road, Blairstown, New Jersey and identified by the Municipality’s Tax Map as Block 1501, Lot 20.04 and consisting of approximately 35 acres (hereinafter the “Lambert Road Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that based upon current enrollment projections and existing facility capacities, and taking into consideration the District's Long-Range Facility Plan, there is no future use or need for the Lambert Road Property;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board has determined that the Lambert Road Property is no longer desirable or necessary for educational purposes and should therefore be conveyed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:20-5, N.J.S.A. 18A:20-6 and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.4. Accordingly, the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorizes the District Administration to submit this Resolution to the New Jersey Department of Education’s Division of Administration and Finance for authorization to dispose of the Lambert Road Property.

Jeremy Cook, Board President

Molly Petty, Board Secretary

WHEREAS, the Blairstown Board of Education (hereinafter the “Board” or the “District”) is the owner of a parcel of land located at 35 Vail Road, Blairstown, New Jersey, identified by the Municipality’s Tax Map as Block 1503, Lot 4 and consisting of approximately 2.45 acres upon which the former Vail School is located (together, hereinafter the “Vail Road Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that based upon current enrollment projections and existing facility capacities, and taking into consideration the District's Long-Range Facility Plan, there is no future use or need for the Vail Road Property;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board has determined that the Vail Road Property is no longer desirable or necessary for educational purposes and should therefore be conveyed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:20-5, N.J.S.A. 18A:20-6 and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.4. Accordingly, the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorizes the District Administration to submit this Resolution to the New Jersey Department of Education’s Division of Administration and Finance for authorization to dispose of the Vail Road Property.

Jeremy Cook, Board President

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Mr. Saalfield explained that upon his reaching out to a County Freeholder regarding the County's possible interest in purchasing either of these properties, it was suggested we apply to New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program. Mr. Croot explained the limited ways that Boards of Education can dispose of property.

4. Appoint A. Brown as Representative for NJ DEP Green Acres Program – A motion was made by Mrs. McElroy, seconded by Mrs. Gerkhardt, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Andrew Brown as the Board's representative for the NJ DEP Green Acres Program.
5. Set Asking Price of Properties – Mrs. Petty explained that the Green Acres Program requires an asking price on its application, so the BOE needs to determine what their asking price will be for each piece of property before we can file the application to participate.

Lambert Road (Realtor's assessed value = \$299-\$319,000) – 35 acres

Vail Road (Realtor's assessed value = \$159-\$169,000) – 2.45 acres with two-room schoolhouse)

A motion was made by Mrs. Shaffer, seconded by Mrs. McElroy, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to set the asking price of the Lambert Road property at \$319,000 and the Vail Road property at \$169,000.

E. TRANSPORTATION

A motion was made by Mrs. Shaffer, seconded by Mrs. Krauss, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to approve the following two motions:

1. Class Trips Transportation Contract for 2019-20 – To approve a transportation contract with Stocker Bus Company in the amount of \$15,765.00 for class trips during the 2019-20 School Year. (No other quotes were received).
2. Joint Transportation Contract – To approve a Joint Transportation Contract with the North Warren Regional Board of Education for our transportation of their 7th and 8th grade students to and from Ridge & Valley Charter School in the amount of \$4,408.50 for the 2019-20 School Year.

F. POLICY

1. Discussion of Policy #5756, Transgender Students – Mr. Saalfield discussed the County Office's position on the need for this policy, and the attorney offered his advice. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. McElroy, seconded by Mrs. Insho, and failed by roll call vote (4-yes <M. Gerkhardt, R. Insho, J. McElroy, J. Shaffer>; 4-no <Mr. Cook, Mr. Karolchyk, Mrs. Krauss, Mrs. Sikkes>; 1-abstention <Mrs. Rolph>) to approve the second reading and adoption of Policy #5756.

2. First Reading of Policy #7510, Use of School Facilities – A motion was made by Mrs. McElroy, seconded by Mrs. Rolph, and carried unanimously to amend Policy #7510 by changing the starting time on Sundays to 9AM.

CORRESPONDENCE – Mr. Saalfield read the letter from Mrs. Lamonte, Interim Executive County Superintendent of Schools, authorizing the Blairstown Township BOE to sell its properties on Lambert Road and Vail Road.

OLD BUSINESS - None.

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION – Mrs. Anderson thanked the attorney for the information he shared this evening.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – J. Karolchyk noted that he will be attending the Delegate Assembly next month. Mr. Karolchyk also reported that the Policy Committee met this evening and reviewed a number of new Strauss-Esmay policy updates, and will be reviewing transportation policies at the next meeting. He noted that there is a job description for the Publicity Coordinator position.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – A motion was made by Mrs. Sikkes, seconded by Mrs. Rolph, and carried unanimously to convene to Executive Session at 8:37PM to discuss matters of Negotiations and Personnel, the results of which will be released to the public as soon as the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 10:11PM and continued with the following action item:

A motion was made by Mrs. McElroy, seconded by Mrs. Gerhardt, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as amended for the September 19th Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT- A motion was made by Mrs. Rolph, seconded by Mrs. Gerhardt, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:12PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Petty
School Business Administrator