

BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

www.blairstownelem.net

March 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER The Blairstown Township Board of Education held this meeting virtually, per Executive Order 103, which was based in the School Gymnasium and was open to the public, on Thursday, March 26, 2020. Mr. Cook, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:03PM.

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 via the Zoom meeting software: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Gerhardt, Mrs. Inscho, Ms. Klein, Mrs. McElroy, Mrs. Rolph, and Mrs. Shaffer
Tardy: Mrs. Sikkes joined the meeting at 6:28PM.

Also Present: Mr. Saalfield, Superintendent; Mrs. Petty, SBA/Board Secretary (in the Gymnasium to provide access to the public to the meeting); and Andrew Brown, Esquire. One member of the public was in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION – None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. McElroy, seconded by Mrs. Inscho, and carried unanimously to convene to Executive Session at 6:06PM to address Board governance issues, the results of which will be released to the public once the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

The meeting returned to public at 6:40PM and continued with the following topic:

DISCUSSION OF VENDOR PAYMENTS DURING MANDATORY SHUT-DOWN

Mrs. Petty noted that she received a letter from the Warren County Special Services School District's Business Administrator, explaining the dilemma for transportation companies to retain bus drivers during the shut-down, and that he had negotiated at 10% reduction in invoice from the contractors during the shut-down.

Mrs. Petty left a message for the owner of Stocker Bus Company to call her prior to tonight's meeting to discuss this subject, but she did not receive a call.

The Board requested Mrs. Petty to release the check to Stocker, in its full amount for March, providing that she receives evidence that Stocker paid its bus drivers for the second half of March, and that she could release a check to WCSSSD for 90% of the second half of its March invoice. The Board will discuss further payments during the school shut-down period for transportation and possibly other expenditures at its April 28th meeting.

Mrs. Petty informed the Board of a notification received today from NJSBA, which stated that there is pending legislation, A-3902, which would permit municipalities to delay the quarterly transmission of property tax revenues to school districts. There was no indication of the length of permitted delays. At this point in the school year, Mrs. Petty reported that the combined amount that Hardwick and Blairstown Townships owe us is \$2,184,714. Without this revenue stream, the Board would not be able to make payments on its financial obligations through the end of June without ending the year in a significant negative cash balance.

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Mrs. Pfeiffer thanked the Board for their support during the school closure, and noted that the teachers are working very hard on preparations for future instruction.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Sikkes, seconded by Mrs. Gerhardt, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Petty

School Business Administrator