

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**JANUARY 24, 2006**

**7:00 p.m. - PUBLIC MEETING**

**ROBBINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER - PUBLIC MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dave Pethybridge at 7:01 p.m.

**II. STATEMENT OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS**

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the rights 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 Washington Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Trenton Times and the Washington Township Bulletin Board. In addition, this notice was faxed to the Trenton Times and posted at Sharon School and Pond Road Middle School.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. ROLL CALL**

Members Present:

David Pethybridge  
Patrick Foti  
Maxine Fox  
Raymond Hart  
Nagesh Kuppuraju  
Michele Siekerka  
Faith Silvestrov

Member Absent

Joseph Armenti  
Mark Setaro

Others Present:

Dr. John Szabo, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Paul Todd, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Dr. Kathie Foster, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

## **V. MINUTES**

On motion of Mrs. Siekerka, seconded by Mr. Hart and carried by a 6-0 vote with Mr. Armenti and Mr. Setaro being absent, the following minutes were adopted:

**Regular Session**

**November 22, 2005**

## **VI. PRESENTATION:**

Ms. Sandy Brillhart of the Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association will present the following three programs:

Walking School Bus  
Safe Routes to School  
School Pool

## **VII. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE**

Mr. Todd commented on the new technology for the board meetings.

Mr. Todd reported that Tuesday night the security system was activated at Robbinsville High School.

Mr. Todd reported that the electronic swipe card system will be working in a few weeks.

## **VIII. BOARD PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**

Mr. Pethybridge reported that the Board is currently working towards the public presentation of the 2006-07 budget.

## **IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Dr. Szabo discussed the following:

- Bus concerns
- Testing will take place for Grades 3 through 8 during March and April.
- Classroom Celebrations in the schools
- State aid and budget materials
- Lawrence High School programs
- Alternate Revenue Streams
- Rap Reinhardt was inducted into the NJSIAA Hall of Fame in December.
- NJ Report Card will be available on February 1.
- Rider Update

X. **LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL REPORT – Mark Setaro**

XI. **STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT – Shannon Boyne**

XII. **HEARING OF PUBLIC**

XIII. **RESOLUTIONS BEING PRESENTED TO THE BOARD FOR APPROAL:**

A. **PERSONNEL – Faith Silvestrov**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Washington Township Board of Education that the following PERSONNEL resolutions, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved as indicated:

On motion of Mrs. Silvestrov, seconded by Mr. Hart and carried by a 7-0 vote with Mr. Armenti and Mr. Setaro being absent, the following was approved:

1. **EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF**

a. **Confidential Secretary/Office Manager 2005-06**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, employ Ms. Eileen Delaney as the Confidential Secretary/Office Manager for the 2005-06 school year at the prorated annual salary of \$40,000.00, effective January 16, 2006.

b. **12 Month School Secretary for PRMS – 2005-06**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, employ Ms. Kathy Antrim as the 12 month school secretary at Pond Road Middle School for the 2005-06 school year a Step 4 prorated annual salary of \$28,444.00 effective January 25, 2006.

c. **Instructional Aide – Pond Road Middle School – 2005-06**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of Mr. Justin Lester as an Instructional Aide in the Pond Road Middle School for the 2005-06 school year at the prorated annual salary of \$18,084.00, effective January 25, 2006.

**d. Technology Specialist – Pond Road Middle School**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of Mr. Trevor J. Quinn as the Technology Specialist at the Pond Road Middle School for the 2005-06 school year at the prorated annual salary of \$41,735.00, effective February 8, 2006 or as soon thereafter as possible.

**e. Custodian – Robbinsville High School**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of Mr. Ron Sadley as a Custodian at the Robbinsville High School for the 2005-06 school year at Step 4 at the prorated annual salary of \$24,482.00, effective January 24, 2006.

**f. Substitute Teachers – 2005-06 School Year**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following as substitutes for the 2005-06 as indicated:

<b><u>Teachers</u></b>	
<b><u>\$80/day – Certified</u></b>	<b><u>\$75/day – Non-certified</u></b>
Maria Ciappina	Jennifer Nowak
Sandra Ann Barbero	Gregg Boita
John Schlesinger	Anne Matias

**g. Substitute Custodians – 2005-06 School Year**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following as substitutes for the 2005-06 as indicated:

Marie Altema	\$9/hour
Kevin Keener	\$9/hour
Pierre Simon	\$9/hour

**h. Substitute Maintenance – 2005-06 School Year**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following as substitute for the 2005-06 as indicated:

Dave Gallagher	\$13/hour
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2. **EXTRA WORK/EXTRA PAY**

a. **Curriculum Writing**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following staff members for curriculum writing for the 2005-06 school year at \$31.00 per hour, as indicated:

Lauren Plummer	Science Fiction/Fantasy	10 hrs.
Anne Marie Higgins	Principles of Biology	40 hrs.
Santford Overton	Forensics II	20 hrs.
Guy Dippolito	French IV	40 hrs.

b. **Homework Club Advisor – Sharon Elementary – 2005-06**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, clarify the stipend for Christine Piovoso as the Homework Club Advisor at Sharon School for the 2005-06 school year. She was Board approved on November 22, 2005, for \$400.00. The correct amount should be \$400 per session for 3 sessions.

3. **STUDENT TEACHER PROGRAM**

a. **Rider University**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following the following student teachers from Rider University for the Spring semester beginning January 23, 2006 through April 28, 2006, as indicated:

**Student Teacher**

Kelsey Kirkpatrick  
Jonathan Cotaldi

**Teacher**

Augusto Macalalag  
Patricia Walker

b. **The College of New Jersey**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following student teacher from The College of New Jersey for the Spring semester beginning January 17, 2006 through March 3, 2006, as indicated:

**Student Teacher**

Lawrence Baldassari, Jr.

**Teachers**

Karen DeRossett

4. **INTERNSHIP**

a. **Internship with Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction**

That the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Melissa Urso as an intern for Nicole Rossi, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, effective January 2006 until June 2006 at no cost to the district.

5. **LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

a. **Guidance Counselor – Sharon School**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a Maternity/Child Care Leave for Kimberly White as follows:

4/26/06 – 6/2/06	27 sick days
6/3/06 – 6/29/06	Family Leave with benefits

b. **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Karen Karpovich to return to work on Monday, February 6, 2006. Her original date of return was Tuesday, February 28, 2006.

c. **Learning Disabilities Teacher/Consultant**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Kimberly Klaus a Child Care/Adoption unpaid leave of absence from January 1 – 31, 2006. Mrs. Klaus will return on February 1, 2006 at 60% FTE.

B. **EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT, & POLICY – Raymond Hart**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Washington Township Board of Education that the following **EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT, & POLICY** resolutions as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved as indicated:

On motion of Mr. Hart, seconded by Mrs. Siekerka and carried by a 7-0 vote with Mr. Armenti and Mr. Setaro being absent, the following were approved:

1. **POLICY/LEGISLATION**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, adopt the following as indicated:

**WHEREAS, the Washington Township School District has been recognized for its exemplary special education practices which include children whenever appropriate with regular education students, and**

**WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education has proposed code amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:14 that, if adopted, will become effective July 1, 2006, and**

**WHEREAS, these proposed amendments exceed the provisions in the federal guidelines IDEIA of 2004, and**

**WHEREAS, some of the provisions of the proposed code would enhance programs and services for special needs children but others will unnecessarily limit the ability of school districts to provide a full continuum of services to meet individual student needs, and**

**WHEREAS, many services proposed in the amended code such as recreation and medical services should not be the sole responsibility of the school district for planning or for funding, and**

**WHEREAS, other proposed changes such as the reduction of ratios for resource room and the re-definition of supplementary instruction will dramatically increase the number of required staff members and educational spaces that are not now available in the Washington Township School District, and**

**WHEREAS, the proposed additional requirements related to meetings of the IEP team places an unnecessary burden on the teaching and related services staff while also disrupting the education of the special and the general education student, and**

**WHEREAS, the proposed timeline prohibits an appropriate planning and budgeting process, and**

**WHEREAS, the added cost to local school districts will place an unreasonable and unnecessary burden on local property taxes, and**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- 1. The State Board of Education either limit its requirements to those recognized by the federal government as necessary and appropriate, or**
- 2. Create a rational timeline for implementing adopted changes, and**
- 3. Fully fund all new mandates for all school districts in the State of New Jersey.**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that a certified duplicate Resolution will be sent to the following:**

**Governor Jon Corzine  
Lucille E. Davy, Acting Commissioner of Education  
Senator Robert W. Singer  
Assemblyman Ronald S. Dancer  
Assemblyman Joseph R. Malone  
Mayor David Fried  
Washington Township Council**

**b. Policy Second Readings**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, adopt the following as indicated following its second reading:

#	Title	Revised/New
<b>B0147</b>	Board Member Compensation and Expenses	Revised
<b>B0157</b>	Board of Education Website	Revised
<b>P1220</b>	Employment of Chief School Administrator	Revised
<b>P2415.04 (M)</b>	Parental Involvement	Revised
<b>P2360</b>	Use of Technology	Revised
<b>P2430</b>	Co-curricular Activities	Revise
<b>P2431</b>	Athletic Competition	Revised
<b>P2481</b>	Home or Out-of-School Instruction for General Education Students	Revised
<b>P3431.01</b>	Family Leave (Certificated Staff)	Revised
<b>P4431.01</b>	Family Leave (Support Staff)	Revised
<b>P3125 (M)</b>	Employment of Teaching Staff Members	Revised
<b>P3370</b>	Teaching Staff Member Tenure.	Revised
<b>P3440</b>	Job Expenses (Certificated Staff)	Revised
<b>P4440</b>	Job Expenses (Support Staff)	Revised
<b>P5111</b>	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Pupils	Revised
<b>P5330</b>	Administration of Medication	Revised
<b>P5530</b>	Substance Abuse	Revised
<b>P5860</b>	Safety Patrol	Revised
<b>P9322</b>	Drug Free School Zones	Delete – Replaced by 9320
<b>R2460.01</b>	Special Education-Location, Identification, and Referral	Revised
<b>R2460.07</b>	Special Education-Free and Appropriate Public Education	Revised
<b>R2460.10</b>	Special Education-Maintenance, Access To and Confidentiality of Student Records	Revised
<b>R2460.14</b>	Special Education-In-Service Training	New
<b>R5310</b>	Health Services	Revised
<b>R5530</b>	Substance Abuse	New

**c. Policy First Readings**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, adopt the following as indicated:

<b>R8420.03</b>	Natural Disasters and Manmade Catastrophes	New
<b>P7510</b>	Use of School Facilities	Revised

**d. On-line Policy Resolution**

**ADOPTION RESOLUTION**



RESOLVED, that the bylaws and policies printed and codified in the comprehensive document entitled "Bylaws and Policies of the Washington Township Board of Education are hereby adopted and that all bylaws and policies heretofore adopted by the Washington Township Board of Education and inconsistent with the bylaws and policies hereby adopted are hereby rescinded, and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the event any policy, part of a policy or section of the bylaws is judged to be inconsistent with law or inoperative by a court of competent jurisdiction or is invalidated by a policy or contract duly adopted by this Board, the remaining bylaws, policies, and parts of policies shall remain in full effect.

2. **CURRICULUM/PROGRAM**

a. **Curriculum Approval**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following:

Grades 6 – 8 Middle School Mathematics

3. **FIELD TRIPS**

a. **Ski Trip – Butternut Ski Area**

**MOTION** to approve the following Robbinsville High School field trip on February 25, 2006, at no cost to the district, as indicated:

<b>Butternut Ski Area</b>	<b>50 students</b>	<b>5 chaperones</b>
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C. **FACILITIES, FINANCE, TRANSPORTATION** – Mark Setaro

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION approve the following FACILITIES, FINANCE, TRANSPORTATION resolutions, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, be approved as indicated:

On the motion, Mr. Foti thanked Mr. Herbert Schneider and the First Washington Bank for accelerating the grant period.

On motion of Mr. Foti, seconded by Mr. Hart and carried by a 7-0 vote with Mr. Armenti and Mr. Setaro being absent, the following were approved:

1. **FINANCE**

a. **Bills & Claims List**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve payment of the Bills & Claims Lists for the month of January 2006, totaling \$1,201,250.18.

**b. First Washington Bank Grant**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent accept the amended payment schedule for the First Washington Bank Media Center Grant. The new terms call for two payments: one in January 2006 and another in January 2007 for \$20,000.00 each. The prior grant called for \$5,000.00 per year through 2013.

**c. Budget Goals**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following 2006-07 Budget Goals:

- Provide materials and resources for the instructional program.
- Maintain class size at current Board policy levels.
- Continue the Middle States Accreditation Process.
- Continue integration of technology into the instructional program.
- Encourage staff development to focus attention on raising achievement levels for the total study body.
- Develop partnerships with business and industry to create authentic learning experiences.
- Review instructional programs for gifted and talented.
- Continue the development of professional learning communities.
- Support efforts to effect greater curriculum coordination and program evaluation.
- Encourage writing across the various curriculum areas.
- Continue support of athletic and co-curricular activities.
- Continue support of community involvement through participation in various committees.
- Anticipate higher operational costs in utilities, transportation and health benefits.
- Promote and expand upon the strengths of the diverse population of Washington Township.
- Continue to fund the maintenance and refurbishment of school facilities.
- Provide greater in-district opportunities for special needs students.
- Provide a professional atmosphere where a collaborative approach to problem solving is encouraged.
- Promote greater operational efficiency with transportation services.
- Develop an efficient district organizational structure that recognizes present and future needs.

**2. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

**a. Building Use**

That the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Buildings and Grounds Use of Facilities Schedule for the month of January, 2006.

**3. Transportation**

**a. Change in Ownership of Bus Company**

That the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the contract transportation agreement between First Student, Inc. and C & R Bus Company, effective January 5, 2006 for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year.

**4. CHILD STUDY SERVICES**

**a. Contract Services**

That the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Karen Sutter, LDTC, to complete learning evaluations at the rate of \$220 per evaluation, not to exceed \$6,600.00.

**b. Home Instruction**

That the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Jason Gray as a home instructor for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year at the hourly rate of \$31.00 on an as needed basis.

**X. HEARING OF PUBLIC**

Topics discussed:

1. Questions on Facility Use.
2. Broadening some of the Board Budget Goals.

**XI. COMMUNITY RELATIONS – Maxine Fox**

- Mrs. Fox announced the creation of 6 Task Forces as follows:
  1. Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Applications
  2. Community Outreach
  3. Publication and Flyers
  4. Project Democracy
  5. Telephone Network
  6. Response Team
- Mrs. Fox will send out letters to Room Parents concerning budget presentations.
- Mrs. Fox suggested that Dr. Szabo and Mr. Pethybridge should send letters to the newspaper prior to the election supporting the budget.
- Project Democracy – co-chaired by Chris Sevilla and Shelly Miller
- Mrs. Fox discussed Meals on Wheels.
- Mrs. Fox discussed the fundraising issue in the schools.

**XII. P.I.E. COMMITTEE – Michele Siekerka**

Mrs. Siekerka reminded everyone about the reception on March 10, 2006 at the RW Johnson Center for Wellness. The Spiezele Group will be recognized.

**XIII. OLD BUSINESS - NONE**

**XIV. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Hart participated in the Mercer County Professional Development Board

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

***ON MOTION* by Mrs. Siekerka, seconded by Mrs. Fox to adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:55 PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Paul M. Todd  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary**

