

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**February 27, 2007**

**POND ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**



**JOINT PUBLIC SESSION AGENDA**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Mr. Dave Pethybridge, President**

**Mrs. Maxine Fox, Vice President**

**Mr. Raymond Hart**

**Mr. Nagesh Kuppuraju**

**Mrs. Doreen Pierson**

**Mr. Michael Reca**

**Mr. Mark Setaro**

**Mrs. Michele Siekerka**

**Mrs. Faith Silvestrov**

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**Dr. John J. Szabo**

**SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY**

**Mr. William Takacs**

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM**

**Dr. Kathie Foster**

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**February 27, 2007**

**7:30 p.m. –JOINT PUBLIC MEETING**

**POND ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

**MINUTES**

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

Mr. Dave Pethybridge, President, called the meeting to order at 7:33 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 Windsor School, Sharon School, Pond Road Middle School and Robbinsville High School.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. ROLL CALL FOR JOINT MEETING**

- a. Town Council Roll Call
- b. Board Members Roll Call

Members Present

David Pethybridge	President
Maxine Fox	Vice President
Raymond Hart	
Nagesh Kuppuraju	
Doreen Pierson	
Michael Reca	
Mark Setaro	
Michele Siekerka	
Faith Silvestrov	

Others Present

Dr. John J. Szabo, Superintendent  
Dr. Kathie Foster, Assistant Superintendent  
William Takacs, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**V. MOTION EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of Mrs. Siekerka, seconded by Mrs. Fox and carried by a voice vote the meeting was adjourned to Joint Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.

- Discussion of Legal Matters

On motion of Mrs. Siekerka, seconded by Mrs. Fox the meeting was reconvened in open session at 7:55 p. m.

**VI. JOINT RESOLUTION**

**VII. HEARING OF PUBLIC**

**VIII. VOTE ON RESOLUTION**

**IX. RECESS**

**X. MINUTES**

On motion of Mr. Ray Hart, seconded by Mrs. Faith Silvestrov and carried by an 8-0 vote with Mrs. Doreen Pierson abstaining, the following minutes were adopted:

Public Session

January 23, 2007

**XI. PRESENTATIONS**

**XII. STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT – Megan Leach**

**XIII. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

**XIV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Recipients for the Washington Education Foundation mini-grants

- Linda Biondi, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, "Poetry: Imagination put to Music"
- Lauren Plummer, RHS English Teacher, "RHS Literary Magazine"
- David Westawski, RHS Choral Music Teacher, "Smart Music in the Classroom"
- Joy Wolfe, RHS Technology Teacher, "The Visual Graphics Project"

**XV. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**XVI. LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL REPORT – Mark Setaro**

**XVII. COMMUNITY RELATIONS – Maxine Fox**

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

**XIX. HEARING OF PUBLIC**

**XX. RESOLUTIONS BEING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:**

**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 Mrs. Silvestrov's motion to approve A 1-6, (except for 6c this item was TABLED) seconded by Mrs. Pierson and carried by a 9-0 roll call vote, the following were adopted:

**1. APPOINTMENT OF STAFF – 2006-2007**

**a. Amendment to Contract**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, amend the employment contract of Dr. Kathleen Foster to indicate a title of **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**,

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the remuneration for said contract be amended for \$127,000.00 per annum (pro rata) commencing March 1, 2007.

**b. Special Education Teacher-Sharon School – 2006-2007 - Correction**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, employ Ms. Lisa Pulliam as a replacement Special Education teacher at the Sharon School for the 2006-2007 school year, at Step 4 BA level of the salary guide and at the corrected annual salary of \$44,748.00 (prorated) and the corrected effective date of January 10, 2007.

**c. Special Education Teacher-Robbinsville High School – 2006-2007 - Correction**

That the Washington Township Board of Education upon recommendation of the Superintendent, employ Mr. Dean Howarth as a replacement Special Education teacher at the Robbinsville High School for the 2006-2007 school year, at the corrected Step 10 BA + 15 level of the salary guide and at the annual salary of \$53,156.00 (prorated), and the corrected effective date of February 12, 2007.

**d. Custodian – Pond Road Middle School**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of Ms. Sarah Smith as a full time custodian for the 2006-2007 school year at Step 1 level of the salary guide and at the annual salary of \$25,183.00 (prorated) effective February 20, 2007.

**e. Substitute Teacher(s) – 2006-2007**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following as substitute(s) for the 2006-2007 school year as indicated:

**Teachers**

**\$80.00/day – Certified**

**Susan Brady  
Lynn DeCamp  
Tom DiLeo  
John Emmons**

**\$75.00/day – Non-Certified**

**Sharon Hunter (correction)**

**2. STAFF RETIREMENT/RESIGNATION**

**a. School Social Worker – Washington Township School District**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the retirement, with regret, of Ms. Marguerite L. Meisenhelder, School Social Worker, effective July 1, 2007. Ms. Meisenhelder has served thirty years in the Washington Township School District. We wish her the best of luck with her retirement.

**b. Teacher of Italian – Robbinsville High School**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation, with regret of Ms. Melissa Urso, Teacher of Italian at Robbinsville High School, effective April 9, 2007. Ms. Urso has served three years in the Washington Township School District. We wish her the best of luck with her future endeavors.

**3. PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT**

**a. Student Observation Request – Sharon School 2006-2007**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the student observation request for the following college students for the 2006-2007 school year as indicated:

**College Student**

**Adrienne Landolfi**

**College**

**West Chester University  
Needs to complete classroom  
observation as part of her  
curriculum requirements.**

**Frank Mercurio, Jr.**

**Mercer County Community College  
Needs to observe a class for 10  
hours for his college field experience.**

**Lauren Walton**

**Mercer County Community College  
Needs to observe a class for 10  
hours for her college field experience.**

**Stacey MacDougall**

**Monmouth University  
Needs to observe a class for 60 hours  
for her college field experience.**

**4. LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

**Guidance Counselor – Robbinsville High School**

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

**4/10/2007 – 5/4/2007**

**16 sick days/3 personal days**

**5/7/2007 – 6/30/2007**

**Family Leave without pay, with  
benefits.**

**(Returning to her position September 1, 2007)**

**5. EXTRA WORK/EXTRA PAY**

**a. Curriculum Writing – 2007 -2008**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following for curriculum writing during the 2007-2008 school year:

<b><u>Curriculum Guide</u></b>	<b><u>Write(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Hours</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>
Trigonometry	Amy Berge	not to exceed 40 hrs	\$31.50
HSPA Math 9/10	Laura Goodrow	not to exceed 40 hrs	\$31.50
HSPA Math 11/12	Laura Goodrow	not to exceed 40 hrs	\$31.50
College Placement Math	Laura Goodrow	not to exceed 40 hrs	\$31.50
Earth & Space Science Curriculum Guide	Erin Plonski	not to exceed 40 hrs	\$31.50

**(Originally Laura Goodrow was originally approved to write the Trigonometry guide)**

**b. Testing Coordinator – WTSD 2006-2007**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of Janet Sinkewicz as Testing Coordinator for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year, at the stipend of \$9,500.00 (pro-rated) effective immediately.  
**(Replacement for Nicole Rossi)**

- c. **Middle State Coordinator**  
That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint Linda Biondi as Middle States Coordinator at the stipend of \$3,000.00 effective immediately. □

6. **EXTRA WORK/EXTRA PAY/STIPENDS**

- a. **Extra-Curricular Enrichment Position – Robbinsville High School 2006-2007**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint the following staff members for the 2006-2007 school year as indicated:

Baseball (Varsity)	Sandy Overton	\$6,543.00
Baseball (Asst Varsity)	Tom Brettell	\$4,842.00
Baseball (JV)	Matt Mayo	\$4,636.00
Softball (Varsity)	Judy Goldstein	\$6,543.00
Boys Lacrosse (Varsity)	Chris Penna	\$6,593.00
Boys Lacrosse (JV)	Rob Shulte	\$4,636.00
Girls Lacrosse (Varsity)	Melissa Hanford	\$6,593.00
Girls Lacrosse (JV)	Ann Woodrick	\$4,636.00
Spring Track (Varsity)	Mike Walker	\$6,593.00
Spring Track (Varsity)	Rick Smith	\$6,593.00
Spring Track (Asst. Varsity)	Andrew Patterson	\$4,636.00
Golf Coach	Richard Gildner	\$5,254.00

- b. **Extra-Curricular Enrichment Position – Pond Road Middle School 2006-2007**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint the following staff members for the 2006-2007 school year as indicated:

Homework Club (5 <sup>th</sup> Grade) (Winter Session)	Carol Hotchkiss	\$430.00
Homework Club (5 <sup>th</sup> Grade) (Winter Session)	Teresa Cullen	\$430.00

- c. **Extra Curricular Enrichment Position – Robbinsville High School 2006-2007**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint Ms. Erin Plonski as Academic Assistant for After-School Help at Robbinsville High School @ a rate of \$31.50 per hour for the 2006-2007 school year.  
**(Funded by No Child Left Behind Program)**

- d. **Mentor – Sharon School – 2006 – 2007**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following teacher mentor for the 2006-2007 school year, effective January 2, 2007 until June 30, 2007.

**Mentor**  
Shelly King

**Mentee**  
Kate Appleby

**School**  
Sharon School

**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:

**1. CURRICULUM/PROGRAM**

**On Mr. Setaro's motion to approve B1-2 seconded by Mrs. Siekerka and carried by a 9-0 roll call vote, the following were adopted:**

**a. Curriculum Approval**

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

- Grade 5 Planetary Science

**b. Field Trips – Sharon School – 2006-2007**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following field trips for Sharon School 2006-2007 school year as indicated:

**i. Pennsbury Manor, Morrisville, PA**

Date: May 17, 2007  
Number of Pupils Participating: 170 (Grade 3)  
Teacher Chaperones: 14  
Number of Chaperones: 18 (5 per class)  
Approximate cost per pupil: \$6.00  
Time scheduled to leave: 9:15 a.m. Return: 2:00 p.m.  
**(No Cost to the District)**

**ii. Stonybrook Millstone Watershed, Pennington, NJ**

Date: May 23 am May 24 am & pm,  
May 30 pm June 6 am 2007  
Number of Pupils Participating: 220 (approx – Grade 2)  
Teacher Chaperones: 2 per session  
Number of Chaperones: 6/session  
Approximate cost per pupil: \$4.50  
Time scheduled to leave: 9:00 am Return 11:30 am  
Time scheduled to leave: 12:30 pm Return 3:30 pm  
**(No Cost to the District)**

**c. Field Trip – Robbinsville High School – 2006-2007**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following field trip for Robbinsville High School 2006-2007 school year as indicated:



**i. Jackson Liberty High School, Jackson, NJ**

Date: February 17, 2007  
Number of Pupils Participating: 26 (AFJROTC)  
Teacher Chaperones: 1  
Number of Chaperones: 0  
Approximate cost per pupil: \$0.00  
Time scheduled to leave: 9:00 am Return 1:30-2:00 pm  
**(No Cost to the District)**

**ii. Mountain Creek Ski Resort, Vernon, NJ**

Date: February 24, 2007 (Rescheduled from 3/2/2007)  
Number of Pupils Participating: 40-50 (Ski and Snowboard Group)  
Teacher Chaperones: 4  
Number of Chaperones: 1  
Approximate cost per pupil: \$7.00 bus-all costs paid by students  
Time scheduled to leave: 6:55 am Return: 8:00 pm  
**(No Cost to the District)**

**iii. Sovereign Bank Arena, Trenton, NJ**

Date: March 7, 2007  
Number of Pupils Participating: 18 (Sports Journalism Class) Titan's Game  
Teacher Chaperones: 1  
Number of Chaperones: 2  
Approximate cost per pupil: bus cost  
Time scheduled to leave: 6:00 pm Return: approx 9:30 pm  
**(No Cost to the District)**

**2. WEEDING OF LIBRARY BOOKS – SHARON SCHOOL 2006-2007**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve of the weeding of Sharon School library books for the 2006-2007 school year (see attached lists).

**C. FINANCE, FACILITIES, 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:

**1. FINANCE**

**On Mr. Setaro's motion to approve C1a-g, seconded by Mrs. Siekerka and carried by a 9-0 roll call vote, the following were adopted:**

**a. Bills & Claims List**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve payment of the following bills and claims:

February 2007 Bill List \$806,491.98

**TOTAL: \$806,491.98**

- b. **Secretary Report**  
That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the November 2006 Board Secretary's Report.
- c. **Treasurer Report**  
That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the November 2006 Treasurer Report
- d. **Budget Transfers**  
That the Washington Township Board of Education upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the November 2006 Budget Transfers Report.
- e. **Tuition Contracts**
- f. **Transfer of Signature**  
  
That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorize the removal of Paul Todd, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, as authorized signer and to add William Takacs, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, as authorize signer for the bank accounts at Washington Township Public Schools, for the 2006-2007 school year.
- g. **Diane Dixon Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation**  
  
That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the \$3,000.00 grant from the "Diane Dixon Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation." The PACF has offered to sponsor the Ravens Players 2007 Winter One Acts productions. This money will cover the cost of hiring a professional theater artist to work with our students, directing, the winter one act production.

**On Mr. Setaro's motion to approve C2-3, seconded by Mrs. Pierson, and carried by a 9-0 roll call vote, the following were adopted:**

2. **FACILITIES**  
a. **Building Use**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve and ratify the Buildings and Grounds Use of Facilities Schedule for the months of February and March 2007.

**b. Capital Change Orders and Payment Requests**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and Spiegle Group Inc., architects for the district and the project, hereby approve the following change orders as indicated:

High School

HVAC Contract #4	Gabe Sganga, Inc,	Change Order 6	\$58,849.20
HVAC Contract #4	Gabe Sganga, Inc	Change Order 8	\$48,843.77
General Contractor	Boro Contractors	Change Orders GC-70,75,76, 83,85,88 7 89	\$97,937.16
Electric Contractor	Brite-Way Electric Co.	Change Order E-28	\$7,631.41
	Brite-Way Electric Co	Change Order E-24	
	Brite-Way Electric Co	Change Order E-29	\$99,947.20
	Brite-Way Electric Co	Change Order E-30	\$87,811.96
Steel Contractor	Brunnquell Iron Works	Change Orders S-3, S-4 & S-5	\$25,192.36
Door Contractor	Won Door	Change Order GC-89 Boro to Won	\$40,000.00

That the Board of Education approve the Spiegle Group Inc, Architects recommendation of a pay application to Boro Contractors in the amount of \$321,913.71. (A balance of \$5,000 remains open for TV Studio Draperies). The funds for this change will be paid from the Capital Account, or the Capital Reserve Account, as monies become available.

That the Board of Education approve the Spiegle Group Inc, Architects recommendation of a final payment application to Brunnquell Iron Works in the amount of \$102,550.76) ). The funds for this change will be paid from the Capital Account, or the Capital Reserve Account, as monies become available.

That the Board of Education approve the Spiegle Group Inc, Architects recommendation of a final payment application to Gabe Sganga, Inc. in the amount of \$107,692.97. ). The funds for this change will be paid from the Capital Account, or the Capital Reserve Account, as monies become available.

That the Board of Education approve the Spiegle Group Inc, Architects recommendation of a pay application to Brite-Way Electric Co., in the amount of \$195,390.57. ). ). The funds for this change will be paid from the Capital Account, or the Capital Reserve Account as monies become available

**3. TRANSPORTATION**

**a. Transportation Jointures – 2006-2007 (Revision)**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following revised jointures as indicated:

**i. Hamilton Township**

1 student      BH06      \$8,183.31

**ii. Hamilton Township**

2 students      HRU5      \$27,000.00  
(Cost \$11,700 x 2 students + \$3,600.00 aide cost)

**b. Transportation Quote NDRH**

That the Washington Township Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the transportation quote NDRH and recognize George Dapper as the apparent low quote at \$42.00 per day. The quote will be in effect as of February 5, 2007, through June 21, 2007. The total cost being \$3,864.00. A summary of the quotes by bidder are as follows:

George Dapper	\$42.00 per day
First Student	\$54.00 per day
Laidlaw Transit	\$95.00 per day
Rick Bus Company	\$43.00 per day

**XIV. HEARING OF PUBLIC**

**XV. OLD BUSINESS**

- **AC at Sharon**  
Dr. Szabo indicated that facilities personnel are preparing an estimate to provide AC at Sharon School.
- **HVAC throughout the district**  
Dr. Szabo indicated that repairs were underway to balance heating at Robbinsville High School. He also indicated that the HVAC technician was reviewing the problem at Pond Road Middle School.
- **Guidance**  
Mr. Stotler gave the Board an update of Robbinsville High School guidance activities.
- **State Funding**  
Dr. Szabo indicated that the Board was aggressively pursuing litigation against the state.
- **Enrollment Survey**
- **Close Out of RHS Referendum**  
Dr. Szabo indicated that he wished to close out the high school referendum within the next six weeks.
- **Sidewalks**  
Dr. Szabo indicated that he has not received word on the grant proposal.

**XVI. NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution to File Objection to Unfunded State Mandate with New Jersey Council on Local Mandates**

Whereas, the Joint Council of County Special Services has presented testimony to the State Board of Education regarding changes to the elementary class age span requirements (at NJAC6A:14-4.7), and

Whereas, the Council's testimony stressed the point that chronological age is not always a meaningful measure for students with severe cognitive disabilities who function at a very low level, and

Whereas, by definition, special class programs serve students with similar needs. There is no justification for reducing the age range in classes where students of different ages have the same functional level. It creates a cost increase without providing an educational advantage, and

Whereas, the State Board of Education has approved these age span reduction changes to the New Jersey Administrative Code to be effective in September 2007 and

Whereas, the changes from current age span criteria are not required by the federal regulations and no additional state funding is provided, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Washington Township Board of Education, Mercer Count, approves this resolution to file an appeal to the New Jersey Council on local mandates, and be it further

Resolved that the Washington Township Board of Education will join other Boards of Education and the Joint County Council of Special Services School Districts to support the appeal of this unfunded mandate and be it further

Resolved that copies of this resolution will be sent to the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, the Governor and Legislators representing this school district.

**XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Motion* by \_\_\_\_\_ seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to convene in closed executive session for the purpose of discussing pending legal matters.

**XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Mr. Setaro, seconded by Mr. Hart, the Board Meeting was adjourned by 9:18 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**William Takacs**

**Business Administrator/Board Secretary**