

LONG HILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2011

The Long Hill Township Board of Education held a Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, January 24, 2011 in the Long Hill Township Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Board President Lisa Scanlon.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Barone, Mr. Blocker, Mr. Carbone, Mr. Meringolo, Mrs. Nyquist, Dr. Rae, Mr. Russo, Dr. Verlezza, Mrs. Scanlon.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Rovtar, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mr. Villar, Central School Principal
Mrs. Dawson, Millington School Principal
Mrs. Jones, Gillette Principal/Curriculum Coordinator
Mr. Blinder, Technology Coordinator
Mrs. Franklin, LHEA President
30 township residents

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Scanlon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADEQUATE NOTICE OF MEETING:

Adequate notice of this meeting of the Long Hill Township Board of Education was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows:

Notice was sent to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel and the Daily Record on April 27, 2010. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the first floor entrance hall of the School District Administration Building, Gillette, New Jersey. Notices were filed with the Township Clerk; and notices were mailed to all persons who have requested individual notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Scanlon received numerous phone calls and emails regarding the Horizon Program.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Negotiations – Mr. Meringolo will report on negotiations with the Administrators in private session.

Policy – Mr. Carbone reported there is one policy on for approval tonight and a committee meeting is scheduled for January 31.

Cost Containment Committee – Dr. Rae stated that he would like the committee to host a gathering of our local school districts to talk about shared services.

Finance – Mr. Blocker reported the committee met earlier and reviewed the bills and all is in order for payment. He also reported that our medical premium costs have increased to over \$120,000 per month or 25% in 2 years.

Mr. Blocker also discussed the Morris County School Boards Association meeting that he and Mrs. Scanlon attended, saying they were able to speak to our legislators about critical educational issues.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Rovtar stated January is School Board Recognition Month and thanked the Board Members for volunteering a tremendous amount of time which helps the district to provide an excellent education for the students in Long Hill Township.

Dr. Rovtar attended the PTO meeting last week and thanked them for their generous donations of LCD and ELMO projectors. There was also a Cyber Safety Presentation by the Morris County Prosecutor's Office. She thanked Mr. Blinder for arranging this session.

Dr. Rovtar discussed the school calendar and making up snow days. There are several options available depending on the additional number of snow days we experience over the next few weeks. The Board discussed the possible approaches if the calendar must be adjusted.

Dr. Rovtar gave a presentation on Proposed Changes to Gifted and Talented Horizon Program.

The Board then asked questions about the proposed changes:

Mrs. Nyquist asked about the percentage of students in each class in Horizons.

Mr. Carbone asked about studies on heterogeneous grouping versus homogeneous grouping.

Dr. Rae asked about the faculty's input on the issue and Dr. Rovtar responded.

Ms. Barone wanted to know why the students wouldn't be graded, and Dr. Rovtar noted that the activities would not be conducive to typical grading standards. She noted that we don't really have a Gifted and Talented Program right now, but are required to have one. Dr. Rae asked about "measuring" whether differentiating of instruction is taking place and whether it is effective.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

At this point, the Board of Education welcomes comments from any member of the public. Please note that as per Board Policy #1120, a total of fifteen (15) minutes is allocated for public comments at any single Board meeting. In order to provide residents the opportunity to comment, individual speakers are limited to three minutes each at any particular Board meeting. The Board may extend these time limits at its discretion.

MRS. JHAVERI commented on heterogeneous versus homogeneous grouping. She wanted to know about the details of data on NJASK test scores.

MRS. BROWN read a speech about what "Horizons" means and why students should be at separate levels.

MR. HOWARD is concerned that one hour per week is not sufficient enough time to cover any complex subject.

RACHEL BROWN, former student, spoke in favor of the current Horizons Program and said it only affected her in a positive manner.

MR. KENNELLY read a prepared statement on how difficult it is to meet the needs of all children. He disagrees with the proposal of the Superintendent.

ASHIL JHAVERI, student, disagrees with getting rid of the Horizons Program.

MRS. PILSBURY spoke highly of Long Hill Township Schools but disagrees with getting rid of the Horizons Program. She agrees with just adding a Gifted and Talented Program to the current set-up.

MRS. SINNOT asked the Board to keep the program, saying her daughter benefited from it.

MRS. DEO has a 5th grader who excels in Horizons.

MR. DEO is against the proposal tonight. He doesn't feel that parents are being listened to and he questioned Dr. Rovtar's reply to an email a parent wrote today.

MRS. BOKACH is a teacher in another district and commented that other schools do have separate classes for accelerated students.

MR. KELLER has children in the program and is confused over the history of Horizons and the effect of the Gifted and Talented Program. He does not want to get rid of the current set-up.

MRS. WEISMAN wants to keep the Horizon Program and add a Gifted and Talented Program.

MRS. BROOKS wants the Board to expand the Horizon Program to include more students.

MRS. HOBBS has several children who have had different experiences.

MRS. DEO said that she agreed with Dr. Rovtar that a “one-size fits all” approach won’t help all students.

MR. KELLER added that Horizon students have more than intellect, they have drive as well.

MR. GIANAKIS said that FORCE would be happy to work with parents to create enrichment classes/programs.

MRS. JHAVERI said her son is putting together a petition to send to Dr. Rovtar.

MRS. COLLINS saw both sides of the discussion and how it affected her own child. She thinks the students in the middle get hurt by not being in the Horizon Program.

BOARD SECRETARY UPDATE

Mr. Esposito stated that he will be providing a budget update to the Finance Committee members by the end of the week.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It was moved by Mr. Russo and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the following minutes of the Long Hill Township Board of Education be accepted as presented and made part of the public record:

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

January 10, 2011 – Worksession – Public Session

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #1:

| | | | |
|------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| YES: | Ms. Barone | Mr. Meringolo | Mr. Russo |
| | Mr. Blocker | Mrs. Nyquist | Dr. Verlezza |
| | Mr. Carbone | | Mrs. Scanlon |

NO: None.

Dr. Rae abstained on resolution #1.

Resolution #1 carried 8-0-1.

It was moved by Mr. Blocker and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 2,3,4,5,6,7.

Any Board Member who takes exception to any of the following actions may reserve the right to object now, and a separate motion for each of the excepted actions will be entertained.

2. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the Payrolls for December 15 and 23, 2010 and the List of Bills for December 16, 22, and 24, 2010 and January 5, 11, 15 and 24, 2011:

APPROVAL OF
BILLS LIST

Payroll for December 15, 2010

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Fund 10 | \$ 21,587.49 |
| Current Expense-Fund 11 | \$368,139.28 |
| Capital Outlay-Fund 12 | \$ -0- |
| Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20 | \$ -0- |
| Capital Projects-Fund 30 | \$ -0- |
| Debt Services-Fund 40 | \$ -0- |
| Total | \$389,726.77 |

Payroll for December 23, 2010

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Fund 10 | \$ 21,133.43 |
| Current Expense-Fund 11 | \$350,778.89 |
| Capital Outlay-Fund 12 | \$ -0- |
| Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20 | \$ -0- |
| Capital Projects-Fund 30 | \$ -0- |
| Debt Services-Fund 40 | \$ -0- |
| Total | \$371,912.32 |

Bill List for December 1, 2010

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Fund 10 | \$ -0- |
| Current Expense-Fund 11 | \$ 8,709.10 |
| Capital Outlay-Fund 12 | \$ -0- |
| Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20 | \$ -0- |
| Capital Projects-Fund 30 | \$ -0- |
| Debt Services-Fund 40 | \$ -0- |
| Total | \$ 8,709.10 |

Bill List for December 22, 2010

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Fund 10 | \$ -0- |
| Current Expense-Fund 11 | \$ 440.00 |
| Capital Outlay-Fund 12 | \$ -0- |
| Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20 | \$ -0- |
| Capital Projects-Fund 30 | \$ -0- |
| Debt Services-Fund 40 | \$ -0- |
| Total | \$ 440.00 |

Bill List for December 24, 2010

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Fund 10 | \$ -0- |
| Current Expense-Fund 11 | \$ 9,741.76 |
| Capital Outlay-Fund 12 | \$ -0- |
| Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20 | \$ -0- |
| Capital Projects-Fund 30 | \$ -0- |
| Debt Services-Fund 40 | \$ -0- |
| Total | \$ 9,741.76 |

Bill List for January 5, 2011

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Fund 10 | \$ -0- |
| Current Expense-Fund 11 | \$ 1,508.98 |
| Capital Outlay-Fund 12 | \$ -0- |
| Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20 | \$ -0- |
| Capital Projects-Fund 30 | \$ -0- |
| Debt Services-Fund 40 | \$ -0- |
| Total | \$ 1,508.98 |

Bill List for January 11, 2011

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Fund 10 | \$ -0- |
| Current Expense-Fund 11 | \$121,273.26 |
| Capital Outlay-Fund 12 | \$ -0- |
| Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20 | \$ -0- |
| Capital Projects-Fund 30 | \$ -0- |
| Debt Services-Fund 40 | \$ -0- |
| Total | \$121,273.26 |

Bill List for January 15, 2011

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Fund 10 | \$ -0- |
| Current Expense-Fund 11 | \$ -0- |
| Capital Outlay-Fund 12 | \$ -0- |
| Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20 | \$ -0- |
| Capital Projects-Fund 30 | \$ -0- |
| Debt Services-Fund 40 | \$457,940.00 |
| Total | \$457,940.00 |

Bill List for January 24, 2011

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Fund 10 | \$ -0- |
| Current Expense-Fund 11 | \$346,419.49 |
| Capital Outlay-Fund 12 | \$ -0- |
| Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20 | \$ 42,731.44 |
| Capital Projects-Fund 30 | \$ -0- |
| Debt Services-Fund 40 | \$ -0- |
| Total | \$389,150.93 |

3. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(E), certifies that as of November 30, 2010 after review of the Board Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(B), and sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

APPROVAL OF
FINANCIAL
CERTIFICATIONS
NOVEMBER, 2010

4. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education accept the financial reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Funds for the month ending November 30, 2010.

APPROVAL OF
BD. SEC. & TREAS.
REPORT, NOV.
2010

5. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the transfers for November 30, 2010.

APPROVAL OF
TRANSFERS

6. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the following resolution based on changes to the bid threshold approved by the Division of Local Government Services:

APPROVAL OF
CHANGE IN
BIDDING AMOUNT

WHEREAS, NJAC 5:34-5.2 details the procedures for increasing the bid threshold and states in part, “A contracting unit with a qualified purchasing agent desiring to take advantage of the supplemental authority of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 and 18A:18A-4.3 shall have its governing body pass a resolution authorizing the amount of a higher bid threshold for the contracting unit, the amount of which shall not exceed the statutory maximum bid threshold ... In a contracting unit subject to the Public School Contracts Law, a certified resolution increasing the bid threshold shall be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs and shall be accompanied by a copy of the contracting unit’s purchasing agent’s qualified purchasing agent certification”, and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2009, c. 166 took effect on January 1, 2011 and changes the maximum allowable bid threshold for a qualified purchasing agent to \$36,000. Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Qualified Purchasing agent shall, effective as of this date, be authorized to purchase goods and services without bidding in amounts not to exceed \$36,000 in the aggregate and is authorized to purchase goods and service without quoting in amounts not to exceed \$5,400 in the aggregate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board secretary is authorized and directed to submit to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs a copy of this resolution and a copy of the Qualified Purchasing Agent’s certification.

7. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the Travel/Conference registration for the staff indicated for professional improvement or development as per the attached listing.

APPROVAL
OF TRAVEL

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 2,3,4,5,6,7:

| | | | |
|------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| YES: | Ms. Barone | Mr. Meringolo | Mr. Russo |
| | Mr. Blocker | Mrs. Nyquist | Dr. Verlezza |
| | Mr. Carbone | Dr. Rae | Mrs. Scanlon |

NO: None.

Resolutions 2,3,4,5,6,7 carried 9-0.

It was moved by Dr. Verlezza and seconded by Ms. Barone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 8 and 9.

Any Board Member who takes exception to any of the following actions may reserve the right to object now, and a separate motion for each of the excepted actions will be entertained.

8. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve an adjustment in the hourly rate for home instruction to be paid to Deborah Lamer for services provided to student 7415798980 as per the student's 504 plan, two hours per week. An hourly rate of \$35.00 was approved at the November 8, 2010 meeting. The correct rate, as per the LHEA Contract is \$35.30 per hour.

APPROVAL OF
SALARY
ADJUSTMENT

9. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the appointment of the following people to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2010-2011 school year:

Kristin Frederick

APPROVAL OF
SUB. TEACHER

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 8 and 9:

| | | | |
|------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| YES: | Ms. Barone | Mr. Meringolo | Mr. Russo |
| | Mr. Blocker | Mrs. Nyquist | Dr. Verlezza |
| | Mr. Carbone | Dr. Rae | Mrs. Scanlon |

NO: None.

Resolutions 8 and 9 carried 9-0.

10. It was moved by Mr. Carbone and seconded by Ms. Barone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Policy Committee, adopt the following policies on a second reading:

SECOND READING
OF POLICY

- 6153 Field Trips
- 6153R Field Trips

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #10:

| | | | |
|------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| YES: | Ms. Barone | Mr. Meringolo | Mr. Russo |
| | Mr. Blocker | Mrs. Nyquist | Dr. Verlezza |
| | Mr. Carbone | Dr. Rae | Mrs. Scanlon |

NO: None.
Resolution #10 carried 9-0.

It was moved by Ms. Barone and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 11 and 12.

Any Board Member who takes exception to any of the following actions may reserve the right to object now, and a separate motion for each of the excepted actions will be entertained.

11. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, adopt the school calendar for 2012-2013 as presented.

ADOPTION OF
2012-2013
CALENDAR

12. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the following changes to the schedule of Board of Education meetings:

CHANGE IN
MEETING DATES

Cancellation of April 25, 2011 Reorganization and Regular Meeting
Scheduling of May 2, 2011 Reorganization and Regular Meeting

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 11 and 12.

| | | | |
|------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| YES: | Ms. Barone | Mr. Meringolo | Mr. Russo |
| | Mr. Blocker | Mrs. Nyquist | Dr. Verlezza |
| | Mr. Carbone | Dr. Rae | Mrs. Scanlon |

NO: None.

Resolutions 11 and 12 carried 9-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Blocker stated that Chatham School District is in need of more space and asked if we could rent them some of our unused classrooms. Dr. Rovtar will check into this.

Dr. Rae asked if we could improve the situation with the snow in front of Central and Millington Schools. Mr. Esposito will check with Temco to see what could be done.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

It was moved by Mr. Meringolo and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Board enter into Private Session for the purpose of discussing the negotiations with the Long Hill Township Association of School Administrators.

PRIVATE
SESSION

Disclosure of the above will be permitted following formal action by the Board at an open public meeting. Formal action is not anticipated at this meeting. Motion carried 9-0. Into private session at 11:04 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Carbone and seconded by Mr. Blocker that the Board return to public session. Motion carried 9-0. Into public session at 12:20 a.m.

PUBLIC
SESSION

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

-12-

JANUARY 24, 2011

It was moved by Ms. Barone and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:21 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETING DATES

February 7, 2011 – Worksession Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Township Administration Building
February 28, 2011 – Regular Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Township Administration Building

Respectfully submitted,

John Esposito
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Dr. Rene Rovtar
Superintendent of Schools

JE:mh