

LONG HILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
FEBRUARY 28, 2011

The Long Hill Township Board of Education held a Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, February 28, 2011 in the Long Hill Township Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Board President Lisa Scanlon at 7:30 p.m.

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. Blinder, Technology Coordinator  
Mrs. Franklin, LHEA President  
6 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 or 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.

It was moved by Mr. Meringolo and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Board go into private session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's contract relative to resolution #14.

PRIVATE  
SESSION

Disclosure of the above will be permitted following formal action by the Board at an open public meeting. Motion carried 9-0. Into private session at 7:35 p.m.

---

It was moved by Mr. Meringolo and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Board return to public session. Motion carried 9-0. Into public session at 7:44 p.m.

PUBLIC  
SESSION

---

## COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Rovtar said that the Horizons Program will not be discussed tonight, but at the March 14, 2011 meeting.

Mrs. Scanlon attended the PTO meeting where a number of teacher grant requests were approved.

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Mr. Blocker reported the committee reviewed the bills list and found all in order for payment.

Mr. Blocker briefly discussed the 2011-12 budget which is on the agenda tonight. He noted that the district has an excellent relationship with the LHEA and wants to continue it. Mr. Blocker also said that he and the committee read every comment submitted to them by residents regarding the budget, and thanked the public for participating. He thanked the LHEA for voluntarily contributing almost \$100,000 towards their health benefits.

Mr. Blocker also commended the administration for their hard work and commitment to financial austerity. He then went through the various components of the budget, including some of the cuts and several of the enhancements. He asked the full Board to support the budget resolution on the agenda.

Policy – Mr. Carbone reported there are several policies on the agenda for first and second readings. The committee is reviewing policies that are 10 years old to see if they need to be updated or revised.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Rovtar stated that the Curriculum Committee met to review and discuss the Horizons proposal. She said that a presentation will be made at the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, with plenty of time for the public's input.

Dr. Rovtar thanked Investors Savings Bank for a \$2500 grant which allowed the district to get a subscription to Discovery Education Science Plus teaching materials.

## BOARD SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Mr. Esposito presented an overview of the 2011-2012 tentative budget using a PowerPoint presentation that will be posted on the district website. Highlights of the budget include:

- The overall expenditure increase in the General Fund is 1.76%.
- State aid in 2011-2012 will increase by \$141,135. \$24,177 is being deducted by the State to pay interest on the bonds issued to fund the grant the district received for the 2004 referendum project. The net increase in state aid, therefore, is \$117,258.
- The tentative current expense tax levy increase is 1.96%, below the 2% allowed by the state.
- The average home in Long Hill Township, which is assessed at \$392,141, would see an annual tax decrease of approximately 64 cents.

Additional highlights of the budget include:

- Funding for new language arts textbooks at the middle school.
- A new computer lease to replace additional computers that are completing their 9<sup>th</sup> year of service.
- Addition of the STAR Program, a new life skills class at Central School.
- Increased appropriations for the upkeep of equipment and facilities.
- One additional out-of-district special education student.
- Four new part time teacher assistant positions included in the budget based on the IEP needs of our special education students.
- World Language positions at Central School are recommended to be returned to full time status and a half time position will also be reinstated for the computer cycle class at Central School.

The district's administrative costs continue to be well below the regional limit.

Mr. Esposito reminded Board Members to complete their annual Financial Disclosure forms and submit them to the Business Office.

## 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. There were no comments from the public.

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

February 7, 2011 – Worksession – Public and Private Sessions

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #1:

YES:	Mr. Meringolo	Mr. Russo
	Mr. Blocker	Mrs. Nyquist
	Mr. Carbone	Dr. Rae
		Dr. Verlezza
		Mrs. Scanlon

NO: None.

Ms. Barone 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, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, authorize the submission of the tentative 2011-2012 Annual School District Budget to the Morris Executive County Superintendent as set forth below:

APPROVAL OF TENTATIVE BUDGET

General Fund	\$14,498,442
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 334,021
Debt Service Fund	\$ 1,179,668
 Total Budget	 \$16,012,131

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these figures result in the following amounts to be raised by tax levy:

General Fund	\$13,873,821
Debt Service Fund	\$ 1,179,668
 Total Tax Levy	 \$15,053,489

It is duly noted that this budget represents an increase of 1.76% in the general fund appropriations, a 1.96% increase in the General Fund Tax Levy and a net tax decrease over the 2010-2011 budget for the residents of Long Hill Township.

3. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve a contract with The Substitute Service, LLC for the provision of substitute calling services for the 2011-2012 school year at an annual cost of \$4,856.68.

APPROVAL OF  
SUBSTITUTE  
SERVICE  
CONTRACT

4. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the Payrolls for January 14 and 28, 2011 and the List of Bills for February 1,7,18 and 28, 2011 (attached):

APPROVAL OF  
BILLS LISTS

Payroll for January 14, 2011

Fund 10	\$ 22,256.64
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$364,163.74
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ -0-
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ -0-
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ -0-
Debt Services-Fund 40	\$ -0-
Total	\$386,420.38

Payroll for January 28, 2011

Fund 10	\$ 22,291.57
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$354,670.93
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ -0-
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ -0-
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ -0-
Debt Services-Fund 40	\$ -0-
Total	\$376,962.50

Bill List for February 1, 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	\$454,693.75
Total	\$454,693.75

Bill List for February 7, 2011	
Fund 10	\$ -0-
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$121,798.23
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ -0-
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ -0-
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ -0-
Debt Services-Fund 40	\$ -0-
Total	\$121,798.23

Bill List for February 18, 2011	
Fund 10	\$ -0-
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$ 30,000.00
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ -0-
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ -0-
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ -0-
Debt Services-Fund 40	\$ -0-
Total	\$ 30,000.00

Bill List for February 28, 2011	
Fund 10	\$ -0-
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$353,679.90
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ -0-
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ 30,956.45
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ -0-
Debt Services-Fund 40	\$ -0-
Total	\$384,636.35

5. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(E), certifies that as of December 31, 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. REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

APPROVAL OF  
FINANCIAL  
CERTIFICATIONS  
DECEMBER, 2010

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

6:20-2.13(B), and sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

6. 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 December 31, 2010.

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

7. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the transfers for December 31, 2010.

APPROVAL OF  
DECEMBER, 2010  
TRANSFERS

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 Mr. Meringolo and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 8,9,10,11.

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, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(E), certifies that as of January 31, 2011 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  
JANUARY, 2011

9. 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 January 31, 2011.

APPROVAL OF  
BD.SEC. & TREAS.  
REPORT  
JANUARY, 2011

10. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the transfers for January 31, 2011.

APPROVAL OF  
JANUARY, 2011  
TRANSFERS

11. 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 8,9,10,11:

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

NO: None.  
Resolutions 8,9,10,11 carried 9-0.

---

It was moved by Dr. Verlezza and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 12 and 13.

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.

12. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Business Administrator and the Director of Special Services, approve home instruction for a student who attends St. Vincent de Paul School. The student has undergone surgery and needs to recuperate at home, as per doctor's note. Home instruction will be provided by Dena Mahoney, a teacher at St. Vincent's, for 2 hours per day, 10 hours per week, beginning  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

APPROVAL OF  
HOME  
INSTRUCTION



February 23, 2011 at the rate of \$35.30 per hour, as per the LHEA contract. Services will be provided in the student's home. Services will continue until the student is able to return to school.

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

NO: None.  
Mrs. Nyquist abstained on resolution #12.  
Resolution #12 carried 8-0-1.

13. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Business Administrator and the Director of Special Services, approve the payment of \$650.00 to Dr. Emanuel Elfenbein for a Psychiatric Evaluation for student #3477929241 to assist in determining possible change in classification category.

APPROVAL OF  
PAYMENT TO  
DR. ELFENBEIN

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

NO: None.  
Resolution #13 carried 9-0.

It was moved by Ms. Barone and seconded by Mr. Meringolo that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 14,16,17. (Resolution #15 was removed from the agenda.)

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.

14. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, at the direction of the Morris Executive County Superintendent of Schools, hereby rescinds the employment  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING -10-

NEW CONTRACT  
FOR DR. ROVTAR  
RESCINDED  
FEBRUARY 28, 2011

contract for René Rovtar, Superintendent of Schools, for the period January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014, as originally approved on December 13, 2010. The pre-existing employment contract between René Rovtar and the Long Hill Township Board of Education for the term of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011 with an annual salary of \$155,000 for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011, as approved by the Executive County Superintendent on June 12, 2009, thereby remains in effect.

Resolution #15 was removed from the agenda.

16. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Business Administrator, and the Central Middle School School Principal approve the appointment of Kimberly Celeste to the position of milk aide at Central School at the hourly rate of \$9.75 effective March 1, 2011.

K. CELESTE  
APPOINTED  
MILK AIDE

17. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Business Administrator, and the Technology Coordinator, approve Gregory S. Jusinski to serve as technology assistant effective March 1, 2011 to April 29, 2011 at the rate of \$16.00 per hour. Total payment shall not exceed \$1,200.00.

G. JUSINSKI  
APPOINTED  
TECH. ASST.

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 14,16,17:

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

NO: None.

Resolutions 14,16,17 carried 9-0.

It was moved by Mr. Carbone and seconded by Mr. Meringolo that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 18,19,20.

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.

18. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Business Administrator and the Director of Special Services, approve the curriculum for the STAR Program (Skills, Technology, Academics, Readiness) Program at Central Middle School for implementation in the 2011-2012 school year.

APPROVAL OF  
STAR  
CURRICULUM

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #18:

YES: Ms. Barone Mr. Meringolo  
Mr. Blocker Dr. Verlezza  
Mr. Carbone Dr. Rae Mrs. Scanlon

NO: None

Mrs. Nyquist and Mr. Russo abstained on resolution #18.  
Resolution #18 carried 7-0-2.

19. RESOLVED 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:

ADOPTION  
OF POLICIES

3541 Transportation Routes and Services  
4112.2 Certification  
4121R Substitute Teachers-Administrative  
Regulations

20. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Policy Committee, approve the following revised policies on a first reading:

FIRST READING  
OF POLICIES

4112.4.1 Employee Health Examinations  
4119.23 Employees Substance Abuse

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 19 and 20:

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

NO: None.

Resolutions 19 and 20 carried 9-0.

21. It was moved by Ms. Barone and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the following resolution stating opposition to Senate Bill 1872 and Assembly Bill 2810 – the Opportunity Scholarship Act.

---

OPPOSITION TO  
SENATE BILL 1872

WHEREAS, the Opportunity Scholarship Act would grant corporations tax credits for contributing to a program that issues education vouchers to certain students for use at any public or non-public school of their choice; and

WHEREAS, during a five-year pilot program, any child residing in one of 13 targeted districts, which operate one or more persistently underperforming schools, may apply for the vouchers, even if the student currently attends a school that is performing satisfactorily; and

WHEREAS, one-quarter of the funds would be reserved for students who already attend private schools; and

WHEREAS, public school districts have experienced reduced state funding and are operating under state-imposed restrictions on local tax levy growth; and

WHEREAS, the five-year pilot program would divert from \$360 million to \$1 billion in public funds to private schools; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is currently experiencing a fiscal emergency during which its revenues are insufficient to provide adequate funding for public education through the School Funding Reform Act, and

WHEREAS, the Long Hill Township Board of Education opposes any government policy that would divert funds from the State's revenue stream to private schools when sufficient revenue is not available for New Jersey's public school finance law; and

WHEREAS, the Long Hill Township Board of Education believes in school choice within the public education sector upon the mutual agreement of the school boards involved; and

WHEREAS, the Long Hill Township Board of Education believes that public funds should not be used to support private schools; and

WHEREAS, the Opportunity Scholarship Act would fail to address the needs of those students in targeted districts who do not participate in the program; and

WHEREAS, the Long Hill Township Board of Education believes that the State should target improvement efforts within the public school system, ensuring that they reach all students. Now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education petitions the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly to reject the Opportunity Scholarship Act (S-1872 and A-2810); and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution be delivered to Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver, and the Long Hill Township Legislative District's representatives in the State Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Acting Commissioner of Education Christopher D. Cerf, the New Jersey School Boards Association and the Morris County School Boards Association.

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #21:

YES: Ms. Barone Mr. Russo  
Mr. Carbone Mr. Nyquist Mrs. Scanlon

NO: Mr. Blocker Mr. Meringolo Dr. Rae

Dr. Verlezza abstained on resolution #21.

Resolution #21 carried 5-3-1.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

March 14, 2011 – Worksession Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Township Administration Building – **Revised Horizon Program Recommendations to be presented to the Board of Education for Discussion**

March 28, 2011 – Regular Board Meeting and **Public Hearing on the Budget** – 7:30 P.M. Township Administration Building – **Possible Board of Education action on Revised Horizon Program Recommendations**

Respectfully submitted,

John Esposito  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Dr. René Rovtar  
Superintendent of Schools

JE:mh