

LONG HILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION
FEBRUARY 7, 2011

The Long Hill Township Board of Education held a Worksession on Monday, February 7, 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: Mr. Blocker, Mr. Carbone, Mr. Meringolo, Mrs. Nyquist, Dr. Rae, Mr. Russo, Dr. Verlezza, Mrs. Scanlon.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Barone.

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/Dir. of Curriculum
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

Dr. Rovtar and Mrs. Scanlon reported that they received phone calls and e-mails regarding the Horizon Program.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Negotiations Committee – Mr. Meringolo reported the committee met with the Administrators and he will update the Board in private session.

Finance Committee – Mr. Blocker discussed next years budget and stated that we are close to the 2% mandated cap without cutting programs. The committee is reviewing every expense on a line by line basis. He said that the tentative budget is due to the County Office by March 4, and we will present and vote on the tentative budget at the February 28th Board meeting.

Right now the budget assumes the same state aid as last year. If this aid is cut, further budget reductions may have to be made.

Policy – Mr. Carbone stated two policies are being removed from the agenda this evening as the Board did not receive the entire policy.

Buildings & Grounds – Mrs. Nyquist reported that a meeting was held with Mr. Esposito and Mr. Salvatoriello to discuss various building maintenance items that are being done. She also stated that one of our plow trucks is virtually unusable and will need to be replaced.

SPORT – Dr. Verlezza reported the committee met on February 3 and discussed getting their 503 status. He also reported that movie night is March 4 at Central School to raise funds for the group.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Rovtar reported on the following:

- Recognized Pam Kmetz, first grade teacher, as a “Teacher Who Makes a Difference”.
- A delayed opening will be 2 hours from now on instead of 90 minutes. All regional districts will now have the same 2 hour delayed opening.
- Due to the large number of snow days, we must revise the calendar. After surveying the staff it was decided to add 2 days to the end of the year, making June 24 the last day of school.
- Horizon Program – Dr. Rovtar got staff input and sent it to the Board. The curriculum committee will discuss the proposed change on February 23. She noted that the public will have ample opportunity to comment prior to any Board action on the Horizon Program.
- Dr. Rovtar's contract was rejected by the County Superintendent and must be renegotiated with the Board.

ADMINISTRATORS AND TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR'S UPDATES

Mrs. Dawson reported on the following:

- Report cards will be distributed on February 11.
- Valentine's Day parties will be held on February 14.
- Second grade students made Valentine cards for the veterans at Lyons Hospital.
- Fifth grade trip to Buehler Science Center is scheduled for February 15 and 16.
- The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) will be administered to fourth grade students on February 16.
- Mrs. Dawson will be meeting with each grade level to review both the Millington School Code of Conduct and the lock down procedures in the lunch room.

Mrs. Dawson also gave a brief overview of why she supports the revision of the Horizon Program. She noted that the decision to change it was not made only by Dr. Rovtar, but by the entire administrative team. Mrs. Dawson talked about her concerns and issues with the Horizon Program at each of the grade levels.

Gillette School

Mrs. Jones reported on the following:

- To date, we have 70 students registered for kindergarten.
- First grade had an anti-bullying presentation last week.
- Students are preparing Valentines for the Veterans.
- Valentine parties are on February 14.
- We are celebrating 100 days of school.
- Gillette School will have a visit from the Cat in the Hat on February 14.
- Parent newsletter was sent out last week.
- Calendar has been updated.
- Memo was sent to parents regarding 2 hour delayed opening.

Curriculum

Mrs. Jones reported on the following:

- Millington teachers visited with elementary teachers from Watchung to discuss Reading Street.
- Mrs. Jones will present a flex day workshop entitled "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett. Mr. Gillespie will be assisting Mrs. Jones in presenting this workshop.
- Mrs. Jones will meet with Central teachers to discuss components of the Language Arts Literacy (LAL) program.
- Mrs. Jones will meet with the Board of Education's Curriculum Committee.

Mr. Villar reported on the following:

- Central School spelling bee was recently held.
- Math midterms were administered last week.
- A new reading unit is being implemented in sixth grade on Overcoming Obstacles.
- School dance has been rescheduled to February 11.
- A winter sports pep rally was held on January 31.
- Fencing competitions continue through the end of February.

Mr. Villar was asked about his position on the Horizon Program and he talked about his experiences in other school districts and what he thought about Long Hill's program.

Mr. Blinder reported on the following:

- Ordered items funded by the PTO.
- The server failed and a major repair was needed.
- Mr. Blinder is working with Dell on monitor problems.
- Some of the PC's in the district are entering their 9th year of service.

BOARD SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Mr. Esposito stated that he has provided the Board with an updated election calendar. The annual school election will be held on Wednesday, April 27. Petitions to run for the Board are available on-line or in the Board office. Completed petitions are due in the Board Office by 4:00 p.m. on March 8.

Mr. Esposito has asked the district's insurance broker to obtain quotes on dental insurance. The premiums are supposed to increase by 6% and he would like to see if we can get a better rate for the same or better than our existing coverage.

State regulations regarding purchasing have recently changed. Threshold numbers are higher if the district has a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) and Mr. Esposito holds this title.

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. POGASH read a statement about socialization of students, differentiation of instruction and her experience in Long Hill Township teaching Horizon students. She is in favor of meeting 5 days per week and retaining the Horizons Program as it is.

MRS. AIMETTE talked about the Gifted and Talented Program, differentiation of instruction and the Horizons Program. She is in favor of maintaining Horizons as it is, based on her 10 years of classroom experience. She has taught in Horizon for 7 years.

MRS. FLINT talked about her own child's experience in Horizon and thought it helped educationally but not socially.

CHRISTINE BROWN read a statement about her family and how valuable the Horizon Program is to the Long Hill Township school system.

MRS. FRANKLIN, President of the LHEA, stated that there were 17 teacher responses that did not support the proposed Horizon changes, 2 that did and 1 response that only provided input on the QUEST program. She stated that she does not believe that it would be appropriate to have this teacher input become a public document.

MR. KALB talked about how students make friends, and how it is determined who gets in the Horizon Program.

MRS. BARBARA agreed with most of what has been said. She talked about heterogeneous groups of students.

MRS. ZOPPI thanked everyone on the Board, Dr. Rovtar and Mr. Villar for everything they do. Her daughter is in Horizon and benefits from it. She also believes it helps town property values. She read a letter from students defending the program.

MR. KENNELLY thanked Mrs. Scanlon for her hard work. He asked how minutes are put together and Dr. Rovtar responded. Mr. Esposito suggested he send his letter to the Board Secretary and ask that it be shared with the Board and be made part of the minutes.

MRS. PILLSBURY supports keeping the Horizon Program and thanked the teachers for speaking up at this meeting. She feels a Gifted and Talented Program should be in addition to the Horizons Program.

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 24, 2011 – Regular Meeting – Public & 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.
Resolution #1 carried 8-0.

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 and 4.

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, 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 resolution #2:

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

NO: None.
Resolution #2 carried 8-0.

Resolution #3 was removed from the agenda.

4. 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:

APPROVAL OF SUB. TEACHER

Michelle Cicalese

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #4:

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

NO: None.
 Mrs. Nyquist abstained on resolution #4.
 Resolution #4 carried 7-0-1.

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 5 and 6.

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.

5. 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

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

In addition, the Board approves the following renumbering of a policy:

- 4131/4131.1 Staff Development, In-Service Education/ Visitations/Conferences **renumbered to Policy #4131**

6. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Policy Committee, readopt the following policies following a review that has been conducted by the Policy Committee:

READOPTION
 OF POLICIES

- 4138.2 Private Tutoring
- 4147 Employee Safety
- 4251 Attendance Patterns
- 5117 Attendance Areas

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 5 and 6:

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

NO: None.

Resolutions 5 and 6 carried 8-0.

7. It was moved by Mrs. Nyquist and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, in conjunction with the Watchung Hills Regional High School District, will conduct the Annual School Election on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at which time the polls will be open from 2:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF ELECTION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education set the date and time for the drawing for position on the ballot for the voting machine in connection with the 2011 Annual School Election for 3:00 p.m. on March 17, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2011-2012 budget will be held on Monday, March 28, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Administration Building.

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #7:

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

NO: None.

Resolution #7 carried 8-0.

8. It was moved by Mr. Meringolo 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 revisions to the 2010-2011 school calendar for the purpose of making up excess snow days:

REVISIONS TO CALENDAR

Reduce the number of student days from 181 to 180
Extend the school year by two days in June: June 23 & 24.

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #8:

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

NO: None.
Resolution #8 carried 8-0.



OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Russo noted that we should also credit the administrators that teachers feel free to come forward without reprisal.

Mrs. Nyquist stated that the comments meant to her that parents were in support of the Gifted and Talented Program.

Mr. Blocker asked about Solar Energy projects. Mr. Meringolo talked about what his research has shown. There are different models for installing the equipment. Discussion ensued regarding the future feasibility for installing solar panels.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

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

PRIVATE SESSION

Administrators.
WORKSESSION

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FEBRUARY 7, 2011

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. Into private session at 9:50 p.m.

It was moved by Mrs. Nyquist and seconded by Mr. Meringolo that the Board return to public session. Motion carried 8-0. Into public session at 10:35 p.m.

PUBLIC
SESSION

It was moved by Mr. Carbone and seconded by Mr. Blocker that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETING DATES

February 28, 2011 – Regular Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Township Administration Building
March 14, 2011 – Worksession Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Township Administration Building
March 28, 2011 – Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on the Budget – 7:30 p.m. –
Township Administration Building

Respectfully submitted,

John Esposito
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Dr. René Rovtar
Superintendent of Schools